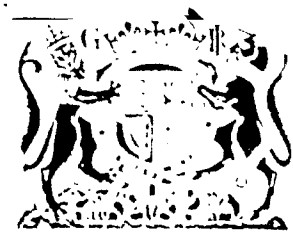
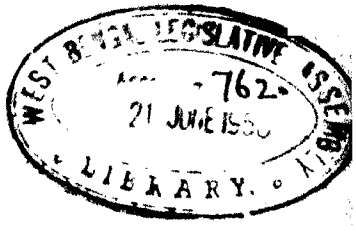
Vol. XXV—No. 2





Council Proceedings

Official Report

Bengal Legislative Council

Twenty-fifth Session, 1927

28th February and 1st March, 1927

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GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

His Excellency the Right Hon'ble Victor Alexander George Robert Bulwer-Lytton, Earl of Lytton, P.C., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

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1. Finance.
2. Separate Revenue.
3. Commerce and Industrial subjects.
4. Marine.
5. Legislative.
6. European Education.

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2. Land Acquisition.
3. Excluded Areas
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2. Immigration.
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4. Haj Pilgrimage.
5. Forests.
6. Irrigation.

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2. Political, exculding Haj Pilgrimage.
3. Police.
4. Ecclesiastical.
5. Regulation of medical and other professional qualifications and standards, subject to legislation by the Indian Legislature.
6. Judicial.

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2. Public Works.
3. Excise.
4. Medical.
5. Public Health.

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2. Local Self-Government (except Medical and Public Health).
3. Registration.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi EMADUDDIN AHMED.

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1. Mr. W. L. TRAVERS, C.I.E., O.B.E.
2. Mr. ALTAF ALI.
3. Raja BHUPENDRA NARAYAN SINHA Bahadur, of Nashipur.
4. Maharaj-Kumar SRIS CHANDRA NANDY.

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Assistant Secretaries to the Council—G. G. HOOPER, M.C., I.C.S., A. M. HUTCHISON and K. N. MAJUMDAR.

Registrar to the Council—J. W. McKAY (*on leave*) M. MUKHERJI (*Offg.*).

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

A

Acharjya Chaudhuri, Maharaja Shashi Kanta, of Muktagacha, Mymensingh. (Dacca University.)
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Afzal, Maulvi Syed Mahamud. [Bakarganj West (Muhammadan).]
Ahamad, Maulvi Asimuddin. [Tippera South (Muhammadan).]
Ahamad, Maulvi Kasiruddin. [Rangpur West (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin. [Rajshahi South (Muhammadan).]
Ali, Maulvi Syed Nausher. [Jessore South (Muhammadan).]
Ali, Mr. Altaf. [Bogra (Muhammadan).]
Atiqullah, Maulvi Syed Muhammad. [Mymensingh East (Muhammadan).]

B

Bagchi, Babu Romes Chandra. [Malda (Non-Muhammadan).]
Baksh, Maulvi Kader, B.L. [Dinajpur (Muhammadan).]
Banerjea, Dr. Pramathanath. [Calcutta East (Non-Muhammadan).]
Banerjee, Babu Promotha Nath. [Midnapore South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Banerjee, Mr. A. C. [Calcutta South Central (Non-Muhammadan).]
Banerjee, Babu Jitendralal. [Birbhum (Non-Muhammadan).]
Basu, Babu Sasi Sekhar. [24-Parganas Rural South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Basu, Mr. P. C. [Burdwan South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Basu, Mr. Sarat C. [Burdwan North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Biswas, Babu Surendra Nath. [Faridpur South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Biswas, Maulvi Abdul Latif. [Dacca West Rural (Muhammadan).]
Bose, Babu Bejoy Krishna. [Calcutta South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Bose, Mr. S. C. (Calcutta University.)
Bose, Mr. Subhas Chandra. [Calcutta North (Non-Muhammadan).]

C

Chakravarti, Babu Jogindra Chandra. [Dinajpur (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chakravarti, the Hon'ble Mr. Byomkes. (Minister.) (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)

Chakraburtty, Babu Jatindra Nath. [Rangpur East (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chatterjee, Babu Umes Chandra. [Bankura East (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chatterjee, Srijut Bijay Kumar. [Bankura West (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, Mr. M. Ashraf Ali Khan. [Rajshahi North (Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath. [24-Parganas Rural North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur, C.I.E., of Dhanbari. (Member, Executive Council.)
Choudhury, Maulvi Khorshed Alam. [Bakarganj North (Muhammadan).]
Cohen, Mr. D. J. (Nominated Non-official.)
Cooper, Mr. C. G. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)
Crawford, Mr. T. C. (Indian Tea Association.)

D

Das Gupta, Dr. J. M. [Calcutta Central (Non-Muhammadan).]
Datta, Babu Akhil Chandra. [Tippera (Non-Muhammadan).]
Datta, Babu Amulya Chandra. [Hooghly Municipal (Non-Muhammadan).]
De, Mr. K. C., C.I.E. (Nominated Official.)
Dey, Mr. G. G. (Nominated Official.)
Donald, the Hon'ble Mr. J., C.S.I., C.I.E. (Member, Executive Council.)
Drummond, Mr. J. G. (Nominated Official.)
Dutt, Babu Saral Kumar. [Bakarganj North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Dutt, Mr. G. S. (Nominated Official.)

F

Faroqui, Khan Bahadur K. G. M. [Tippera North (Muhammadan).]
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]

G

Ghose, Babu Amarendra Nath. [Mymensingh West (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ghosh Maulik, Babu Satyendra Chandra. [Nadkhali (Non-Muhammadan).]

Ghuznavi, the Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. Abu Ahmed Khan. (Minister.) [Mymensingh South-West (Muhammadan).]
Gilchrist, Mr. R. N. (Nominated Official.)
Goenka, Rai Bahadur Badridas. (Bengal Marwari Association.)
Gofran, Maulvi Abdul. [Noakhali West (Muhammadan).]
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra. [Dacca City (Non-Muhammadan).]

H

Habibullah, Nawab Khwaja. [Dacca City (Muhammadan).]
Haque, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Azizul. [Nadia (Muhammadan).]
Himatsingka, Babu Prabhu Doyal. [Calcutta West (Non-Muhammadan).]
Hoque, Kazi Emdadul. [Rangpur East (Muhammadan).]
Hosain, Nawab Musharruf, Khan Bahadur. [Malda *cum* Jalpaiguri (Muhammadan).]
Husain, Maulvi Latafat. (Nominated Non-official.)
Husain, Maulvi Syed Maqbul. [Chittagong North (Muhammadan).]
Huq, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Ekramul. [Murshidabad (Muhammadan).]

Ismail, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad. [Mymensingh Central (Muhammadan).]

J

James, Mr. F. E., O.B.E. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]
Jennaway, Mr. J. H. (Indian Mining Association.)

K

Karim, Maulvi Abdul. [Burdwan Division South (Muhammadan).]
Kasem, Maulvi Abul. [Burdwan Division North (Muhammadan).]
Khan, Babu Debendra Lal. [Midnapore North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Khan, Khan Sahib Maulvi Muazzam Ali. [Pabna (Muhammadan).]
Khan, Maulvi Tamizuddin. [Faridpur North (Muhammadan).]
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman. [Dacca East Rural (Muhammadan).]

L

Lahiri, Mr. Basanta Kumar. [Nadia (Non-Muhammadan).]
Laird, Mr. R. B. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)
Lala, Babu Saroda Kripa. (Chittagong Landholders.)
Leicester, Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. H., I.M.S. (Nominated Official.)
Liddell, Mr. H. C. (Nominated Official.)
Lindsay, Mr. J. H. (Nominated Official.)

M

Maguire, Mr. L. T. (Anglo-Indian.)
Maiti, Babu Mahendra Nath. [Midnapore South-East (Non-Muhammadan).]
Marr, Mr. A., C.I.E. (Nominated Official.)
Mawla, Maulvi Chaudhury Gholam. [Faridpur South (Muhammadan).]
Mazumdar, Rai Bahadur Jadunath, C.I.E. [Jessore North (Non-Muhammadan).]
McCluskie, Mr. E. T. (Anglo-Indian.)
Mitter, Sir Provash Chunder, Kt., C.I.E. (Presidency Landholders.)
Moberly, the Hon'ble Mr. A. N., C.I.E. (Member, Executive Council.)
Moitra, Srijut Jogendra Nath. [Bogra *cum* Pabna (non-Muhammadan).]
Morgan, Mr. G. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Mukerjea, Srijut Taraknath. [Hooghly Rural (Non-Muhammadan).]
Mukerji, Mr. S. C. (Nominated Non-official.)

N

Nandy, Maharaj Kumar Sris Chandra. [Murshidabad (Non-Muhammadan).]
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra. [24-Parganas Rural Central (Non-Muhammadan).]
Nasimuddin, Mr. Khwaja, C.I.E. [Bakarganj South (Muhammadan).]

O

Oaten, Mr. E. F. (Nominated Official.)
Ordish, Mr. J. E. [Dacca and Chittagong (European).]

P

Phelps, Mr. Trevor J. (Calcutta Trades Association.)
Philips, Mr. J. Y. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Poddar, Mr. Ananda Mohan. (Bengal Mahajan Sabha.)
Prentice, Mr. W. D. R. (Nominated Official.)

R

Rahim, Sir Abd-ur-, K.C.S.I. [Calcutta North (Muhammadan).]
Rahman, Maulvi Azizur. [Mymensingh North-West (Muhammadan).]
Rahman, Maulvi Shamsur. [Khulna (Muhammadan).]
Rahman, Mr. A. F. M. Abdur. [24-Parganas Rural (Muhammadan).]
Raikat, Mr. Prasanna Deb. [Jalpaiguri (Non-Muhammadan).]
Rauf, Maulvi Syed Abdur. [Jessore North (Muhammadan).]
Ray, Babu Nagendra Narayan. [Rangpur West (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath. [24-Parganas Municipal South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ray, Dr. Kumud Sankar. [Faridpur North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ray, Maharaja Jogindra Nath, of Nator. (Rajshahi Landholders.)
Ray, the Hon'ble Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra, of Nadia. (Member, Executive Council.)
Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. K. C. (Nominated Non-official.)
*Ray Chaudhuri the Hon'ble Raja Manmatha Nath, of Santosh. (Dacca Landholders.)
Roy, Babu Manmatha Nath. [Howrah Rural (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Dr. Bidhan Chandra. [24-Parganas Municipal North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Mr. D. N., Bar.-at-Law. [Jessore South (Muhammadan).]
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar. [Dacca Rural (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Mr. S. N. (Nominated Official.)
Roy Choudhuri, Rai Bahadur Satyendra Nath. [Bakarganj South (Non-Muhammadan).]

S

Sachse, Mr. F. A. (Nominated Official.)
Sadeque, Maulvi Mohamed. [Noakhali East (Muhammadan).]
Sanyal, Babu Sachindra Narayan. [Rajshahi (Non-Muhammadan).]
Sarbadhikari, Dr. Sir Deva Prosad, Kt., C.I.E., C.B.E. (Nominated Non-official.)

Sarkar, Babu Naliniranjan. [Mymensingh East (Non-Muhammadan).]
Sarker, Rai Sahib Rebati Mohan. (Nominated Non-official.)
Sattar, Khan Sahib Maulvi Abdus. [Chittagong South (Muhammadan).]
Sattar, Mr. Abdool Razak Hajee Abdool. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Municipal (Muhammadan).]
Sen, Babu Nagendra Nath. [Khulna (Non-Muhammadan).]
Sen, Mr. Satish Chandra. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)
Sen Gupta, Mr. J. M. [Chittagong (Non-Muhammadan).]
Shah, Mr. Gholam Hossain. [24-Parganas Municipal (Muhammadan).]
Sinha, Raja Bahadur Bhupendra Narayan, of Nashipur. (Burdwan Landholders.)
Skinner, Mr. S. A. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Solaiman, Maulvi Muhammad. [Barrackpore Municipal (Muhammadan).]
Stuart-Williams, Mr. S. C. (Nominated Official.)
Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S. [Calcutta South (Muhammadan).]

T

Travers, Mr. W. L., C.I.E., O.B.E. [Rajshahi (European).]

W

Woodhead, Mr. J. A. (Nominated Official.)
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(Official Report of the Twenty-fifth Session.)

VOLUME XXV—No. 2.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council [illegible] under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Monday, the 28th February, 1927, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President (Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHAUDHURI, of Santosh), in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council and the two Hon'ble Ministers and 93 nominated and elected members.

Starred Question.

(to which oral answers were given).

Names of retired police officers serving as Honorary Magistrates.

*22. **Babu ROMES CHANDRA BACCHI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the names of the retired police officers serving as Honorary Magistrates;

(*ii*) the names of those who are acting as such in districts from which they retired (with the names of those districts);

(*iii*) how many of them have been decorated with titles since their appointment as Honorary Magistrates; and

(*iv*) what are the titles given to each of them?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether such appointments are made in the nature of recognition for their services as police officers?

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly): (*a*) (*i*) Complete information is not available.

A list of the names of such officers who were of the higher grades is laid on the table.

(*ii*) Babu Sharat Shashi Datta and Rai Sahib Pyari Lal Neogi served for some period in Dacca and Malda, respectively.

(*iii*) One.

(*iv*) Rai Sahib

(*b*) No.

List of names referred to in the reply to clause (a) (i) of Starred Question No. 22.

1. Rai Bhawani Nath Nandi Bahadur.
2. Babu Sharat Shashi Datta.
3. Khan Sahib Ghulam Rabbani.
4. Rai Sahib Pyari Lal Neogi.
5. Babu Keshab Lal Banarji.
6. Babu Hari Gopal Mukharji.
7. Khan Sahib Maksud Ahmed.

Chairmen of district and local boards employing boards' employees for canvassing for their election.

*23. **Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government been drawn to a Circular issued by the United Provinces Government which declares that Chairmen of district and local boards will be liable to removal if they employ district and local boards' employees for actively canvassing for votes on their behalf or otherwise actively assisting in the election of candidates?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of taking any action on similar lines for this province?

SECRETARY to the DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (Mr. J. C. Drummond): (*a*) No.

(*b*) No, because the law does not empower Government to remove a Chairman in such circumstances.

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to make inquiries about the Circular issued by the United Provinces Government?

Mr. J. C. DRUMMOND: I shall inform the Hon'ble Minister of this question.

[illegible] outside unions.

*24. **Srijut TARAKNATH MUKERJEA:** Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department aware of the fact that the dafadars and chaukidars employed by the union boards are occasionally requisitioned by the police authorities outside the unions not only for muster parades but also on other occasions.

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly): Chaukidars are occasionally employed outside the unions for guarding railway lines during the journeys of Their Excellencies the Viceroy, and the Governor, and those of Royal personages. On such occasions the union boards are given previous notice, and attempts are made, as far as possible, to avoid depleting a union of its chaukidars. Chaukidars are also occasionally employed for the purpose of escorting prisoners to the thana, and for patrolling a crime centre in a neighbouring union.

Mr. A. C. BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state why these chaukidars are called away from their places of duty to guard the railway lines when His Excellency the Viceroy, Governor or any other high personage travels by train?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: For their personal safety.

Mr. A. C. BANERJEE: For how many days at a stretch are these chaukidars kept away?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: It depends on their places of duty.

Mr. A. C. BANERJEE: May I enquire if anybody is employed in the place of the chaukidars to protect the villages for which they are employed?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: We do not take all the chaukidars from a union. There are a certain number of chaukidars left to do the duty of those who are taken away.

Mr. A. C. BANERJEE: One chaukidar is sometimes in charge of a number of villages (four or five); what happens to those villages when the chaukidar is taken away?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: In some cases several chaukidars are in charge of one village.

Mr. A. C. BANERJEE: May I give specific instances of only one chaukidar being in charge of 4 or 5 villages?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: In that case I ask notice.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AZIZUL HAQUE: At what rate are these chaukidars paid for keeping guard over the railway?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: I cannot tell you off-hand.

Scheme for free primary education.

*25. **Babu MANMATHA NATH ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether the Government intend to frame and to carry out a scheme for free primary education?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement giving the principal provisions intended by the Government in this connection?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. Byomkes Chakravarti): (*a*) and (*b*) A scheme for the introduction of free primary education was prepared in the department before I joined the Government and is described in the Resolution published on September 25th last. I am not prepared to make any statement until I have had time to study it.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AZIZUL HAQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long it will take him to study that?

The Hon'ble Mr. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI: That I cannot say.

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is any likelihood of the Bill being introduced during the life-time of this Council?

The Hon'ble Mr. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI: I hope so.

Officers in the superior grade in the Agricultural Department.

*28. **Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of the European and Indian members in the superior grade in the Agricultural Department with their (*a*) salaries; and (*b*) qualifications;

(*ii*) how many of them are staying in the Dacca Manipur Farm; and

(*iii*) whether they pay any rent for the quarters occupied there, and, if so, what are the respective amounts?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. Abu Ahmed Khan Ghuznavi): (*i*) and (*a*) The member is referred to page 483 of the current Civil List.

(*b*) A statement is laid on the library table for the information of the member.

(*ii*) Four.

(*iii*) The amount of monthly rent paid by each officer is given below:—

	Rs.	A.
(*1*) Mr. McLean ...	135	0
(*2*) Dr. Hector ...	116	0
(*3*) Mr. Carbery ...	108	5
(*4*) Mr. Smith ...	105	0

Complaint as to tampering with votes at election from the Birbhum (non-Muhammadan) constituency.

*27. **Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Appointment Department aware that, at the last general election, one of the candidates from the Birbhum non-Muhammadan constituency preferred a written complaint before the returning officer of the said constituency that the polling officer in charge of the Nalhati polling station had been guilty of tampering with the votes of the illiterate voters?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the returning officer held any enquiry into this complaint?

(*c*) If so, with what result?

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) An enquiry was made by the returning officer. As neither a verbal nor a written request from the returning officer elicited names of witnesses from the complaining candidate, enquiry was made from the polling officer concerned and the Subdivisional Officer, Rampurhat, who was present at the time of polling at Nalhati.

(*c*) The complaint was found to be unfounded.

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: Will the Hon'ble Member consider the advisability of having coloured boxes for elections in future as is done in other provinces?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: The point will be considered in connection with the next general election.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if notice was given to the complainant before enquiry was made?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: The complainant was asked to give the names of witnesses; he did not do that.

Mr. A. C. BANERJEE: Was the enquiry of the usual white-washing type?

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Taxation Enquiry Committee Report.

...haraja SHASHI KANTA ACHARJYA CHAUDHURI, of Muktagacha, Mymensingh: Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether the attention of the Government has been drawn particularly to the discussions in the Taxation Enquiry Committee Report on the following points:—

(*i*) Division of income-tax between the central and local Governments;

(*ii*) Imposition of income-tax on agricultural income;

(*iii*) Extension of the existing law regarding succession duties; and

(*iv*) Transfer of non-judicial stamp revenue to the central Government?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald): At the instance of the Government of India, points (*i*) and (*iv*) are engaging the attention of the local Government.

Rescission of orders granting the privilege of electing their Chairmen in so far as the Midnapore District Board is concerned.

51. Babu PROMOTHA NATH BANERJEE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state the reasons for which the Government withdrew the right of Midnapore people to elect the Chairman of their own district board?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of giving back the right?

(*c*) If so, when?

The Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. ABU AHMED KHAN GHUZNAVI: (*a*) The member is referred to Government order No. 2090L.S.-G., dated the 12th July, 1926, of which a copy is laid on the Council table.

(*b*) and (*c*) Not at present.

Letter referred to in the reply to clause (a) of Unstarred Question No. 51.

No. 2090 L.S.-G., dated Calcutta, the 12th July, 1926.

From—J. G. DRUMMOND, ESQ., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Local Self-Government Department,

To—The Commissioner of the Burdwan Division.

I am directed to refer to your No. 370 C., dated the 5th May, 1926, recommending that the approval of the Governor in Council, under section 22, Local Self-Government Act, to the election of Babu Birendra Nath Sasmal as Chairman of the Midnapore District Board be withheld, and to say that His Excellency in Council has decided after very careful consideration not to approve this election. It follows that the post of Chairman of the Midnapore District Board is vacant. As the privilege of electing their own Chairman was extended to the members of the Midnapore District Board among others by Government Circular Nos. 502-506 L.S.-G., dated the 26th February 1920, the natural course would now be to ask the members to elect some one else as Chairman. His Excellency in Council is, however, advised that he has no power under the Local Self-Government Act to order a fresh election should he withhold his approval to the election held under section 22 of the Act, and that the only course open to him is to rescind the order of 26th February, 1920, so far as the District Board of Midnapore is concerned and to appoint a Chairman.

The Governor in Council, therefore, hereby rescinds so much of the order conveyed in Government Circular Nos. 502-506 L.S.-G., dated the 26th February, 1920, as refers to the district of Midnapore.

As His Excellency in Council has no intention of making any departure from the policy of having non-official elected Chairmen of district boards, which has worked well on the whole, he wishes you to impress on the members of the district board his reasons for filling up the vacancy by appointment instead of by a fresh election.

I am to add that His Excellency in Council has decided to appoint Babu Debendra Lal Khan, M.L.C., as Chairman of the Midnapore District Board, and that a notification to this effect will be published in the *Calcutta Gazette*.

Garba "Bhil."

82. Babu JATINDRA NATH CHAKRABURTTY: Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of making an enquiry into the floods in the Garba *Bhil* with a view to remedying them?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur, of Dhanbari): Government have no information in regard to this *Bhil*, but are making enquiries.

Yield of crops in the Kedua "Math" in Howrah.

53. Babu AMULYA CHANDRA DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state the average yield of crops of the Kedua *Math* (field) of the Howrah district for the last ten years?

The Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. ABU AHMED KHAN GHUZNAVI: No statistics of average yield of crops in the Kedua *Math* in Howrah district are available, but it is understood that the average crop per annum in that area is two to three maunds per bigha. The maximum crops is said to be ten to twelve maunds per bigha which is obtained once only every seven or eight years.

"Korbani" at Patuakhali.

54. Babu SARAL KUMAR DUTT: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state what steps were taken against the exercise of the *korbani* in the open at Patuakhali?

(*b*) Was any attempt made to screen the ceremony or to avoid offending Hindu sentiment?

(*c*) Is it a fact that some of the Muhammadan police officers and the Muhammadan Deputy Magistrate—the second officer at Patuakhali—were connected with the holding of the *korbani* in the open?

(*d*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what steps, if any, the Government have taken in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: (*a*) and (*b*) *Korbani* was carried out at two places in Patuakhali town. No question has arisen as regards the manner in which the ceremony was conducted at one of these places. The other place was closed on three sides, but open on the fourth. This was not a new place for the sacrifice, and no objection was made to it. Unfortunately the Subdivisional Officer did not go to see the place and did not order that the fourth side should be screened.

(*c*) Some Muhammadan officers of Government were present at the sacrifice.

(*d*) Steps will be taken to ensure that in future places in which *korbani* is performed at Patuakhali are adequately screened.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the second officer was connected with the *korbani*?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: I am not able to state whether any officer was connected with the *korbani* but some officers might have been.

Mr. A. C. BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Member please make inquiries.

Music before mosque in Patuakhali.

55. Babu SARAL KUMAR DUTT: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state how the Government could ascertain that "there was a long established and well-recognised practice in Patuakhali that music was stopped in deference to Muhammadan sentiment by all processions, etc., etc." as stated in the Government *communiqué* of 22nd January, 1927?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the Hindu leaders or Hindu representative bodies were consulted in ascertaining this custom?

(*c*) When did this custom originate at Patuakhali?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: (*a*) and (*b*). The custom was admitted by the local Hindu leaders before the District Magistrate. The only point over which there was any dispute was the eastern limit of the area within which music was stopped.

(*c*) The date at which this custom originated is not known.

Babu SARAL KUMAR DUTT: Were the local Hindu leaders consulted?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: I will ask for notice.

Babu SARAL KUMAR DUTT: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to publish the result of the enquiry?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: Government have issued a *communiqué* which embodies the result of the inquiry.

Riot at Patuakhali.

56. Babu SARAL KUMAR DUTT: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of starting an immediate non-official inquiry about the cause of the recent outbreak of a riot on the 26th of January at Patuakhali?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the local authority at Patuakhali took any precautionary measures on the request of the local Hindu leaders to check the riot when the Mussalmans were seen coming into the town with *lathis* and other weapons in their hands in the presence of the Subdivisional Officer?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: (*a*) No.

(*b*) On the apprehension that Muhammadans might come into Patuakhali from the villages, police were posted at important crossings and main approaches to the town, and an injunction was issued prohibiting the carrying of *lathis* or the assembly of five or more men within municipal limits. Government have no information whether these precautions were taken on the request of the local Hindu leaders. So far as Government are aware, there was no invasion of the town by Muhammadans armed with *lathis* or other such weapons.

Question of extending the Public Gambling Act to Kurigram.

57. Kazi EMDADUL HOQUE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state the reason why the Public Gambling Act II of 1867 has not been extended to the subdivisional town of Kurigram?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of extending the operation of the said Act to the said subdivisional town of Kurigram at an early date?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: (*a*) Because no such proposal has been received by Government.

(*b*) No.

Establishment of union boards in Murshida

58. Khan Bahadur Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether union boards have been established in the district of Murshidabad?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of taking immediate steps to establish union boards in all subdivisions of the Murshidabad district?

The Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. ABU AHMED KHAN GHUZNAVI: (*a*) No; it was decided in 1921 to establish 91 union boards, but it has not been found possible to start them for lack of Circle Officers.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any Circle Officer has been appointed for the purpose of starting union boards at Murshidabad?

The Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. ABU AHMED KHAN GHUZNAVI: I am afraid I must ask for notice.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be surprised to learn from me that two Circle Officers are actually working there?

Subordinate Educational Service.

59. Rai JADUNATH MAZUMDAR Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether he has been apprised of the dissatisfaction prevalent among the members of Subordinate Educational Service engaged in collegiate work due to the difference in their pay, status and position from that of the members of the Bengal Educational Service?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of removing the dissatisfaction?

The Hon'ble Mr. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI: (*a*) Government are aware that a certain feeling exists among college teachers in the scale of Rs. 150—10—400 in the Subordinate Educational Service that they should be allowed gazetted status. The matter was carefully considered in 1925 in consultation with the Accountant-General, Bengal, but it was not found possible to entertain the proposal on financial grounds.

Government have no information that any dissatisfaction exists in regard to the existing pay and position of Subordinate Educational Service officers employed in colleges.

(*b*) In view of the reply to clause (*a*) above, Government do not consider that any modification of the existing rates of pay, status and position of such officers is justified.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AZIZUL HAQUE: Is it the information of Government that no dissatisfaction exists?

The Hon'ble Mr. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI: That is the information at the disposal of Government.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AZIZUL HAQUE: Including the Hon'ble Minister?

The Hon'ble Mr. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI: Including the Minister, personally he has none.

Bhairab Scheme.

99. Rai JADUNATH MAZUMDAR Bahadur: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation aware that plans and estimates of Project No. II of the Bhairab Scheme have been forwarded to the District Officer of Jessore for action under the Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Act, 1920 (Bengal Act VI of 1920)?

(*b*) If so, what is the present stage of the said scheme?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the plans and estimates of Project No. I of the Bhairab Scheme are ready for transmission to the District Officer of Jessore for action under Bengal Act VI of 1920?

(*d*) If not, when will they be ready?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what is the present stage of Project No. III of the Bhairab Scheme?

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur, of Dhanbari: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Notices under section 6 of the Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Act, 1920, have been published in the prescribed manner calling for objections or suggestions thereon, and the names of members of the committee to be formed under section IX of the Act have been forwarded by the Collector to the Commissioner of the Presidency Division for appointment.

(*c*) Before submitting the Project No. I to the District Officer of Jessore, it has been found necessary to make a further inquiry into the question of spill water for flushing this portion of the river.

(*d*) In the next few months.

(*e*) Three alternative estimates for Project No. III have been prepared and submitted to Government and are now under consideration. It is probable that this scheme will be submitted to the Collector shortly.

Repairs of the Grand Trunk Road from Howrah to Bandel.

81. Srijut TARAKNATH MUKERJEA: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to state—

(*i*) what amount has been allotted this year (1926-27) for the repairs of the Grand Trunk Road from Howrah to Bandel; and

(*ii*) when and up to what distance from Howrah the Grand Trunk Road will be macadamised?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble Mr. Byomkes Chakravarti): (*i*) It is impossible to give the actual figures of allotment for the portion of the road from Howrah to Bandel. The amounts allotted this year (1926-27) for expenditure on the two sections of the road lying in Bengal are—

From Sibpur to Bally Bridge—

For repairs—Rs. 19,000.

For original works (improvements, etc.)—Rs. 56,000.

From Bally Bridge to Barakar—

For repairs—Rs. 89,430.

For original works (improvements, etc.)—Rs. 66,200.

(*ii*) The whole of the road from Howrah, excepting the portion now being diverted by the Railway Company, is already macadamised. Of this, only 4 miles from Howrah are treated with tar, and it is not at present proposed to extend this treatment further.

Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill and Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Bill.

82. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether Government propose to introduce Bills for the amendment of the—

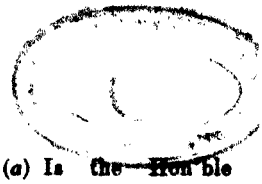
(*i*) Bengal Local Self-Government Act (Bengal Act III of 1885); and

(*ii*) Bengal Municipal Act (Bengal Act III of 1884)?

(*b*) If so, when will they be introduced?

The Hon'ble Haji Mr. A. K. ABU AHMED KHAN GHUZNAVI: (*a*) (*i*) and (*b*) Government hope to do so during the term of the present Legislative Council. But no Bill has so far been drafted, and it has not been decided on what general lines legislation should be undertaken.

(*a*) (*ii*) and (*b*) The Bengal Municipal Bill will be introduced during the lifetime of the present Council, but Government have not yet decided when to introduce it.



Taxation of date-trees.

63. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries aware that a license fee of Rs. 2 is at present being levied in the district of the 24-Parganas on each date-tree for making *tari* from the trees and that even those from which sweet juice is made are not some times exempted?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that it has been departmentally ordered that a coating of lime is to be applied on each pot to be hung up for sweet juice?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that this coating of lime makes the juice and molasses distasteful and lessens the price?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of putting a stop to this taxation and also to the application of this coating of lime to the pot of the sweet juice?

The Hon'ble Mr. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI: (*a*) Yes.

No date-trees are taxed for the drawing of sweet juice.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) It does not make the juice and molasses distasteful, neither does it lessen the price.

(*d*) It is not proposed to discontinue the tree-tax on date-trees for the making of *tari* or the order enjoining the coating of lime. The latter is intended to prevent fermentation.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the licence fee is levied upon every hawker who hawks sweet juice?

The Hon'ble Mr. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI: No.

Nominated Commissioners of the Narayanganj Municipality.

64. Mr. ANANDA MOHAN PODDAR: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that all the four nominated Commissioners of the Narayanganj Municipality belong to the European mercantile community?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of nominating at least one Commissioner of the Narayanganj Municipality from the Indian merchants' community?

The Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. ABU AHMED KHAN GHUZNAVI: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Government do not propose to consider this question in advance before the Commissioner submits recommendations.

Paper Book Department.

65. Babu MANMATHA NATH ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to lay on the table a tabular statement showing the amount of annual grants made by the Government of Bengal to the Calcutta High Court for the maintenance of the Paper Book Department of the Appellate Side of the High Court from 1921 to 1926?

(*b*) Is any such grant made for the paper books prepared in the Original Side of the High Court?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: (*a*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of Unstarred Question No. 65 showing the amount of annual grants made by Government to the Calcutta High Court for the maintenance of the Paper Book Department of the Appellate Side of the High Court from 1921 to 1926.

Year.	Amount.
	Rs.
1921-22	... 53,000*
1922-23	... 50,000*
1923-24	... 35,000
1924-25	... 24,168
1925-26	... 22,740
1926-27	... 23,227

* Includes temporary appointments invaded for the Judicial Side.

A[illegible] of Bengali détenus in Burma.

66. Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Burma Government put forward a scheme for accommodating all the Bengal détenus in Burma in a building outside the Mandalay Jail walls?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the above scheme was recommended by—

(*i*) the Mandalay Cantonment authorities;

(*ii*) the Deputy Commissioner of Mandalay;

(*iii*) the Superintendent of Police, Mandalay;

(*iv*) the Commissioner, Mandalay Division, and

(*v*) the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, C.I.D., Burma, or any of them?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the building has been purchased by the Burma Government and is now ready for occupation?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the above scheme has been approved by the Government of Bengal?

(*e*) If not, will the Member be pleased to state the reasons for not approving of the scheme?

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly): (*a*) and (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Government have no information.

(*d*) and (*e*) The scheme was dropped because the Government of Bengal considered it inadvisable to concentrate all the détenus in one place.

Pirojpur High English School.

67. Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY CHOUDHURI Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Pirojpur High English School, which was a private school managed by a committee, was taken up by Government under certain conditions together with a trust fund?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the school was first provincialised and then converted into a Government school, but the conditions have not been fulfilled?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Government took up the school with a promise that a *pucca* school house, with hostels and Head Master's quarters would be constructed at an early date?

(*d*) Is it a fact that a plot of land was acquired for the purpose about 8 or 9 years ago, but nothing has been done yet?

(*e*) Do the Government intend to construct the school building, hostel and quarters?

The Hon'ble Mr. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI: (*a*) and (*b*) The school was provincialised at first temporarily and then on a permanent basis without any conditions being attached thereto. The trust fund which was taken over by Government has been utilised for the benefit of the school in awarding scholarships to students.

(*c*) Government did not provincialise the school with any such promise.

(*d*) and (*e*) Yes, a plot of land was acquired some years ago, but the scheme which was originally prepared for the construction of buildings for the school was considered too costly and a revised scheme on a more modest scale had to be prepared. A revised scheme recently submitted by the Director of Public Instruction is now under the consideration of Government.

Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Bill.

68. Khan Sahib Maulvi ABDUS SATTAR: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether there was a Bill further to amend the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884 (Bengal Act III of 1884), before the last Legislative Council?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the present stage of the Bill?

(*c*) When is it likely to come up before the Council?

The Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. ABU AHMED KHAN GHUZNAVI: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*) The Bill will be introduced during the lifetime of the present Council, but Government have not yet decided when to introduce it.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AZIZUL HAQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Bill will be introduced during the lifetime of the Council or when its life is extinct at the end of three years?

The Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. ABU AHMED KHAN GHUZNAVI: I do not think it requires an answer.

Forest in Cox's Bazar.

Khan Sahib Maulvi ABDUS SATTAR: Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Forests) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in Cox's Bazar there has been a wholesale reservation of the forest leaving no pasture ground?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE (FORESTS) (the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): No.

Revaluation of the Roads and Public Work cesses.

70. Raja BHUPENDRA NARAYAN SINHA Bahadur, of Nashipur: Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the names of the districts of Bengal where there has been a revaluation of the roads and public work cesses after the completion of the settlement operation under Chapter X of the Bengal Tenancy Act; and

(*ii*) the amount by which the roads and public work cesses has been increased in each district after such revaluation, showing the income derived from the roads and public work cesses, before and after, such revaluation?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE (LAND REVENUE) (the Hon'ble Maharaja Kshaunish Chandra Ray Bahadur, of Nadia): A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to Unstarred Question No. 70.

Names of the districts where there has been a revaluation of roads and public work cesses after the completion of the settlement operation.	Income derived from roads and public work cesses before revaluation.	Income derived from roads and public work cesses after revaluation.	Increase.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bankura	1,09,566	2,33,924	1,24,358
Midnapore	3,33,615	5,77,017	2,43,402
Mymensingh	5,06,806	6,94,645	1,87,839
Tippera	2,94,903	3,27,262	32,359
Bakarganj	4,63,826	5,13,921	50,095
Dacca	2,36,462	3,27,370	90,908
Noakhali	1,66,583	2,11,939	13,646
Rajshahi	2,05,425	3,34,871	1,29,946
Jalpaiguri	1,09,279	1,42,10	33,234
Faridpur	Figures not available.		36,000

Moribund condition of the Eastern Bengal rivers.

71. **Nawab KHWAJA HABIBULLAH:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation been drawn to the moribund condition of the Eastern Bengal rivers?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking any steps for the improvement of the same?

(*c*) Is it a fact that Rai Bahadur Sailendra Nath Banerjee, Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Department, was put on special duty in connection with the Eastern Bengal rivers?

(*d*) Is it a fact that he submitted a report on the subject?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken on the report?

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur, of Dhanbari: (*a*), (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Two officers have been posted to Dacca for the purpose of collecting hydraulic data in connection with the improvement of the Dhaleswari, Buriganga and other rivers. Shoals in the Buriganga, Lakya and Bangshi were dredged a short while ago: attempts are being made to increase the supply of water in the dry season in the Dhaleswari and Buriganga: the possibility of improving the Chandpur Nala is being examined. A scheme for improving the Dolai Khal is nearly ready, and detailed investigations in the Manikganj subdivision have been made to ascertain whether water can be led into those parts where stagnation is now prevalent.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what is meant by "the scheme being nearly ready" and for how long has the scheme been with the Government?

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur, of Dhanbari: I will inquire.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state for our information as to the possibility of any action being taken during the present year with regard to this scheme?

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur, of Dhanbari: It is not likely.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Is there any chance of these schemes being barred by limitation as some of them have been pending for more than three years?

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur, of Dhanbari: No.

Fee [illegible] primary [illegible] within [illegible] Municipality.

72. Maulvi SYED MAQBUL HUSAIN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Commissioners of the Chittagong Municipality have sent up a complete scheme for the introduction of free and compulsory primary education for boys within the whole municipal area, agreeing to pay half of the total cost, both recurring and capital?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the said scheme has been strongly recommended both by the Inspector of Schools and the Divisional Commissioner?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of taking immediate action in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI: (*a*) A scheme has been submitted, but it is not complete.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The matter is under the consideration of the department, but there are legal difficulties in the scheme as submitted.

Projected bridge near Chuadanga in Nadia.

73. Rai JADUNATH MAZUMDAR Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state what is the present stage of the projected bridge already approved by Government near Chuadanga in the district of Nadia?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to lay on the table copies of the correspondence on the subject between the District Board of Jessore, the Government of Bengal, Irrigation Department, and the Railway Department?

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur, of Dhanbari: (*a*) The Eastern Bengal Railway have agreed to the reconstruction of the bridge in question to enable a supply of water to be given to the Nabaganga River from the Matabhanga, the project for which is being compiled. The cost of the alterations will be a charge against the project estimates.

(*b*) In view of the reply given in (*a*), it is not necessary to lay papers on the table.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Who is preparing the project and where it is being compiled?

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur, of Dhanbari: At Berhampore.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to tell us whether it will take as long a time as the Bhairab scheme?

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur, of Dhanbari: No.

Re-excavation of Saraswati.

74. Srijut TARAKNATH MUKERJEA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state what further steps have been taken for the re-excavation of the river Saraswati in the district of Hooghly and Howrah?

(*b*) When is the work estimated to finish in Howrah district?

(*c*) When is the portion of this river in the Hooghly district expected to be taken in hand?

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur, of Dhanbari: (*a*) The Saraswati in the districts of Howrah and Hooghly has been under silt clearance during the current year.

(*b*) and (*c*) It is expected that the work will be completed by the end of March.

Calcutta University (Amendment) Bill.

75. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether Government proposes to introduce any Bill for the amendment of the Calcutta University Act?

(*b*) If so, when will it be introduced?

The Hon'ble Mr. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI: (*a*) and (*b*) The member is referred to the answer given by the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazl-ul Haq to the question asked by him on the same subject at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 24th January, 1924, a copy of which is placed on the library table. Little progress has since been made in the matter, as the conference has not been able yet to arrive at an agreed basis for legislation. The question has, however, not been dropped and Government hope to be in a position to introduce legislation early in the lifetime of the present Ministry.

[illegible] gate of Tolly's Nala on the B[illegible]i River.

76. **Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state whether the sluice gate of Tolly's Nala on the Bidyadhari River in police-station Sonarpur, district 24-Parganas, is wholly opened in time of heavy rains to let out accumulated rain waters of the *abads* on either sides of the said nala?

(*b*) If not, are the Government considering the desirability of issuing instruction, so that the gate referred to is wholly opened in the time of heavy rains?

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur, of Dhanbari: (*a*) The sluice in question has never once been closed since the 26th June, 1922.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Toll staff of the Calcutta Canals.

77. **Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the employees in the Calcutta Canals in the toll department make some deposit as security on the understanding that they will not be transferred to mufassal where the employees do not give any security deposit?

(*b*) Is it a fact that these employees are now transferred to mufassal contrary to the previous arrangement of not transferring them to mufassal?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reason for the change?

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur, of Dhanbari: (*a*) No.

(*b*) The staff are transferable to any toll office in the Presidency.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Scheme for the introduction of free and compulsory education for boys within Chittagong Municipality.

78. **Khan Sahib Maulvi ABDUS SATTAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Commissioners of the Chittagong Municipality have sent up a complete scheme for the introduction of free and

compulsory primary education for boys within the whole municipal area, agreeing to pay half of the total cost, both recurring and capital?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the said scheme has been strongly recommended both by the Inspector of Schools and the Divisional Commissioner?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of taking any immediate action into the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI: (*a*) A scheme has been submitted, but it is not complete.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The matter is under the consideration of the department, but there are legal difficulties in the scheme as submitted.

Khan Sahib Maulvi ABDUS SATTAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the difficulties?

The Hon'ble Mr. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI: These are legal difficulties.

Khan Sahib Maulvi ABDUS SATTAR: May we know them?

The Hon'ble Mr. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI: I cannot specify them all.

Cox's Bazar High English School.

79. Khan Sahib Maulvi ABDUS SATTAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state the reason why the Cox's Bazar High English School has not been provincialised?

The Hon'ble Mr. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI: The provincialisation of schools is not part of the present policy of Government.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AZIZUL HAQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the present policy of Government with regard to these schools?

The Hon'ble Mr. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI: I do not know.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AZIZUL HAQUE: May we know, Sir, who will give us this information?

The Hon'ble Mr. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI: I am not aware as to which gentleman will be able to answer this question; I cannot.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AZIZUL HAQUE: May we know whether the Secretary in the Education Department can answer it?

The Hon'ble Mr. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI: No.

Constitution of railway Advisory Boards.

89. Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to state the principles on which selection is made of the ~~personnel on the~~ Advisory Boards of the East Indian and Eastern Bengal Railways?

(*b*) Has any of the members of these Boards travelled in the inter and third class compartments on any occasion?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE (the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald): (*a*) It is assumed that the question refers to the local advisory committees of the two railways referred to.

The Advisory Committee of the East Indian Railway is constituted as follows:—

> The Agent, East Indian Railway, *ex officio*, Chairman; one member nominated by the Government of Bengal; one member nominated by the Government of Bihar and Orissa; one representative of the Bengal Legislative Council nominated by the Government of Bengal; one representative of the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council; two members nominated by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce; one member each nominated by the Corporation of Calcutta, the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, the Indian Mining Association, the Indian Mining Federation, and the Calcutta Trades Association.

The Advisory Committee of the Eastern Bengal Railway consists of—

> The Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway, *ex officio*, Chairman; one member nominated by the Government of Bengal; one member nominated by the Government of Assam; three representatives of the Bengal Legislative Council nominated by the Government of Bengal; one member nominated by the Corporation of Calcutta; four members nominated by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce; two members nominated by the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce; and one member nominated by the Calcutta Trades Association.

(*b*) Government have no information.

Government Business.

General discussion on the Budget of the Government of Bengal.

Srijut TARAKNATH MUKERJEA: A perusal of the Budget and an examination of the figures in detail has not been a very pleasant task to me.

To us, the elected representatives of the people, a consideration of the Budget does not bring much comfort. Neither does it give us any very great hopes for the future. I do not make any exaggeration when I say that even to those, whose ambition it has been to work the Reforms successfully with continued progress, the way in which the administration is being carried on produces no other feelings but despair.

Let me, however, congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Member on his clever Budget speech which I consider to be a masterpiece of illusion, full of financial jugglery and linguistic skill.

We all feel that the machinery of our Government has become too inelastic and too rigid to be able to move with the needs of the hour. Impervious to public demand, the authorities are proceeding along their own narrow grove, and there is absolutely no indication that there is any inclination or desire on their part to adopt any progressive policy.

Bengal is in need of such administration as can rise above prejudices and preconceptions and may have the courage of striking at the root of our sufferings and can boldly take such means as may successfully combat our alarming increase of sickness and poverty. Bengal will, therefore, go on raising her voice against the present policy of providing luxuries for our rulers first and then distributing miserable doles for the necessities of the people.

The Hon'ble Finance Member complains of the resources being limited when the question is one affecting the lives of the people, but no such objection is ever heard of when it concerns the Police or such other favourite departments.

The question of primary education, as the Hon'ble Finance Member says, is a vast one involving enormous expenditure. But, Sir, that is no reason why this most important but neglected subject should not be taken up in right earnest and the needed funds found by retrenchments in pampered and top-heavy departments, instead of by fresh taxation as Government proposes to do. The people are poor and very heavily taxed in proportion to their income. They are right, therefore, in opposing any addition to their burdens by fresh taxation.

In this connection I would beg leave of the House to say a few words for the much neglected Sanskrit *tols*. Let me begin by gratefully mentioning that some years ago the Government made a start in this direction by recognising the Sanskrit *tols* in the different districts and by not only instituting title examinations on different subjects, but by sanctioning some grants-in-aid for such *tols*. But, Sir, it is a matter of

sincere regret that the amount available for such grants is not at all adequate to the requirements. Sir, it is well known to us all, that in these *tols* by tradition and convention the students are not only taught free of any charge, but the students are also provided with board and lodging, all free of any charge. Such things were possible when living was cheap in our land and when the *gurus* were well patronised by the State and by the wealthy people of the country, but, Sir, in these hard days and in the absence of such financial support these Sanskrit *tols*, the only repository of the ancient lore of the Hindus, are more moribund than alive.

The real worth of this lore is gradually being recognised in many countries in different parts of the world. It is, therefore, in the interests not only of the Hindus, but also of future civilisation that these *tols* and *gurus* who have no other sources of income should be granted a living income by suitable grants by the Government through the Education Department.

The Budget while providing the Police and the superior services with all the luxuries which modern civilisation has invented, has hopelessly neglected the cause of the nation-building departments.

Now speaking about my district I should like to place before the House and the Government the following points:—

(1) No special provision has been yet made for the re-excavation of the Rivers Saraswati and Kananadi on which depends the fate of thousands of the people of my district, and although the matter has been brought to the notice of the authorities on many times, no proper step has yet been taken. The River Saraswati, which is one of the main outlets of water in the district, being totally silted up, no water can pass out to the Ganges, thus leaving thousands of acres of land totally under water for over four months of the year.

As a result of this, not only are the poor cultivators totally deprived of any crop, but it has also rendered the entire locality very unhealthy and malaria and kala-azar, etc., are producing quite a havoc there. In fact, the situation has become quite alarming.

(2) No provision has been made for the flood relief of people in that unfortunate malaria-stricken and flood-ridden subdivision Arambagh. It is unfortunate that no step has yet been taken to take up in hand the Santragachi-Bishnupur Chord line of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, which would provide communication with that forsaken sub-division Arambagh.

(3) The Government Agricultural School at Chinsura which was abolished very unwisely, has not yet been restored. The result is that without any substantial support from the State the present private school now in existence there is starving for funds.

(4) Fourthly, let me invite the sympathetic attention of the Government to the question of establishing a Medical School at Chinsura. I

hope the matter will be considered more sympathetically. In the district of Hooghly large numbers of people die of malaria, kala-azar and other preventable diseases, and the death rate is alarmingly increasing every year. The want of qualified medical men in most of the villages is keenly felt and many lives could be saved if proper medical treatment could be provided.

Students of this district are not admitted to the Campbell Medical School in Calcutta, and at the same time the accommodation at the Ronaldshay Medical School at Burdwan is not even sufficient for the boys of that district, not to speak of the boys from Hooghly and other districts. Thus, students belonging to the district of Hooghly are practically denied any medical education. This is happening at a time when such education is so greatly needed by the people of the district in order that they may receive adequate medical relief. It is to be hoped that the matter will receive proper and sympathetic consideration.

The Hon'ble Member says that the Irrigation Department has not been able to spend up to the Budget provision in connection with the bridges over the canals round Calcutta and in certain of their drainage schemes. May I enquire why the famous Public Works Department executives have become so unmindful and indifferent in regard to such an important matter? It is a pity that the schemes for dealing with water-hyacinth and for district public health organisation have not yet come into proper and necessary action.

It is, of course, to the credit of the Hon'ble Finance Member that the Budget this year is not a deficit one—the excess of expenditure over income amounting to a little over Rs. 45 lakhs has been met from the balances which stand at present at Rs. 1,92,79,000 as the closing balance.

I will not waste the time of the House by pointing out the well-known fact that the two favourite departments, namely, the Police and the General Administration, are still swallowing up a disproportionately large portion of the revenue.

I will not also dilate on the enormous difference in educational expenditure per head between a European and an Indian boy.

I need not speak at length on the fact that between the Governor with his establishments, etc., and his Executive Councillors and their entourage it costs the province Rs. 12 lakhs. This is almost equal to the amount which a wealthy country like Britain pays to maintain His Majesty the King in State.

I do not propose to develop the arguments that a large percentage of the money allotted under the heads "Police," "Health" or "Medical" is eaten up by bricks and mortar and salaries and allowances of Indian Medical Service officers.

It may be briefly noted that while the magnificent sum of Rs. 80,000 has been provided for extensive anti-malarial measures in rural areas through medical officers and village workers in a malaria-ridden country like Bengal, a sum of Rs. 60,000 has been provided for the magisterial bungalow at Pabna.

I will leave to this House the fact that the paltry sum of Rs. 2,80,000 has been budgeted for the grant to local bodies for improvement of rural water-supply.

I need not remind the House of the disproportion in the scales of salaries drawn by the heads of the departments and the poorly paid clerks under them, a disproportion of which there is, perhaps, no parallel in any other civilised country.

Referring to the transferred departments, the Hon'ble Finance Member says that so far it has been their experience that the transferred departments have generally been unable to spend even the very limited resources which are given to them in the Budget.

It is well known that the transferred departments are not great favourites with the bureaucracy. But we are really surprised to hear from the Hon'ble Finance Member that even the small amounts at their disposal lie unspent and go to swell the balance on which the administration can always fall back to cover its annual deficits brought about by extravagance in the reserved departments. Is it not the natural inference that the transferred departments are being run in a routine way, ornamented by red tape, and without anyone having the brains or imagination sufficient for drawing up and carrying out schemes of far-reaching public utility which would contribute materially to the cause of nation building?

After all, the nation lives in the villages. But what are the steps that are being taken to make the life of people in villages worth living for, from physical, sanitary, medical, economical and educational points of view? The increased expenditure under the head "Police" is due to the demands for the equipment of the force, to better, more adequate and comfortable housing, to the proposal for strengthening the striking strength of the Police by new appointments, to house the married officers and sergeants, etc. Thus, the estimate under the head "Police" comes to Rs. 1,88,87,000 out of a total revenue of Rs. 11,10,62,000.

A budget reflects something more than the mere financial condition of a Government. It gives the public an insight into the real character of the administration. The real and fundamental policy of the Government, its aims and objects in its true light, its concern for the welfare of the people all find a clear and faithful expression in the figures of the Budget.

Ours is an agricultural country, and the people who are really the backbone of the country cannot be contented unless some material improvement is done to them.

It is admitted on all hands that the political situation in the country is very serious and that constructive statesmanship demands that at this critical moment the Government should show greater anxiety to placate the people.

The present discontent in the country, apart from its political sense, which is the legitimate and natural outcome of our contact with western institutions, is to a very great extent due to the poverty of the middle classes which has reached such gigantic proportions as cannot but prove a real source of danger to the State,

With refined notions of living, increased by contact with western ideals, but with no money to invest in agriculture, trade or industry, our middle classes sometimes find themselves destitute of the means of procuring even the bare necessaries of life. If this feeling of depression finds occasional vent in fanatical crimes, true statesmanship should try to cope with the situation by making every endeavour to remove the distress first, and such stray cases can never be considered as anything of an anarchical movement in the country.

History has proved that repression has never proved successful in removing the spirit of discontent amongst the people in any part of the world.

With these few words, Sir, I conclude my humble observations on the Budget.

The Maharaja SHASHI KANTA ACHARJYA CHAUDHURI, of Muktagacha, Mymensingh: The present Budget reveals the unsound character of our provincial finance. In whatever manner the Budget may be balanced, the unpleasant fact has to be faced that our normal annual receipt falls short of our annual normal expenditure.

It is hardly any use trying to tinker with such a Budget. We might effect reductions under some heads, and ensure larger provision for more useful expenditure under other heads; but the improvement so effected would not be appreciable, having regard to the expanding needs of the province. The only true remedy for this deplorable situation is undoubtedly a generous revision of the Meston settlement. A good deal is said every year in this Council on this question; and it is gratifying to find that opinion in this House is unanimous about the iniquity of the Meston settlement and the urgency of its revision.

The settlement may be revised as a sequel to any action which the Government of India may take on the Taxation Enquiry Committee's report. If this does not happen, then certainly there will be an occasion for it when the next Statutory Commission comes. In any case,

a revision of the Meston settlement is likely to be effected during the life-time of the present Council.

I find that while winding up the Budget last year, the Hon'ble Mr. Donald stated that the position about the Meston award was more favourable because of the report of the Taxation Enquiry Committee, in which among other things a proposal was made for the division of the income-tax revenue between the Central and Provincial Governments. But the speech of Sir Basil Blackett in the Legislative Assembly last autumn held out no definite hope of anything being done on that recommendation, or of any revision of the present system of federal finance in the near future. Our fight must all the same be continued. In a recent interpellation I enquired whether Government would give this House an opportunity to discuss the recommendations of the Taxation Enquiry Committee before formulating their own opinion for transmission to the Government of India. I must say that the reply which the Hon'ble Mr. Donald gave to that question has disappointed me. He pointed out the obvious fact that any non-official member could bring forward any resolution on the subject under our existing rules. My intention, however, in putting the question was to ascertain whether Government themselves were prepared to allot a day definitely for the discussion of this important matter, so as to have the support of the entire House for any proposal they might forward to the Government of India on the vital questions involved.

However, Sir, I do hope the Hon'ble Member in charge will seriously consider as to whether it would not be advantageous at least to set up a Standing Committee of officials and non-officials, representing different groups in this House, for the express purpose of taking all necessary action in connection with the revision of the Meston settlement. My anxiety is to see the closest contact established between Government and the non-official members in this matter, which alone can make our efforts successful.

Before resuming my seat, I would like to say a word about the remission of our annual contribution of Rs. 63 lakhs to the Government of India. When the remission was made, for the second time in 1925, a recommendation was attached to it by the Assembly, in concurrence with the Government of India, that a substantial proportion of the amount remitted should be devoted to the use of the transferred departments. I would like to inquire as to how far this condition has been caried out. The Hon'ble Member in his Budget speech has given us an idea as to what progress has been made in the expenditure on transferred departments since 1920-21. But it would be interesting to know the extent of this progress since 1925, in view of the condition referred to by me.

In conclusion, Sir, I desire to thank Government for the provision they have made for the sewage scheme and the Moslem Hall in connection with the Dacca University.

Khan Sahib Maulvi ABDUS SATTAR: Before proceeding to discuss the Budget, I have got only a word to say regarding the mode of presenting it. Of course, I am new to this Council, and I do not know whether other members have felt the difficulty as well. The Budget of the Government, with an income and expenditure of Rs. 11 crores, was presented on last Monday afternoon, and we were given only a few days to read through these voluminous books, and we have got only two days—only a few hours—to discuss it—of course, with a time-limit prescribed by the President of 10 to 15 minutes. I fail to understand the reason of presenting the Budget in this way. What can the poor people make out of the Budget? What suggestions can we make? Does the Government really intend that those people who have come here should study the Budget and make suggestions—suitable and proper suggestions—for the acceptance of the Government; or does the Government mean to make a show of it? That is what appears to me. If it is really to be of any use, we should have much longer time to discuss the Budget in a small Committee of ours consisting of officials and non-officials and then should make suggestions. These are, of course, my suggestions. If there are other members who feel as I do I believe they would support me.

Secondly, with regard to the Budget, I tried to read it with whatever intelligence I have got, and for these two or three days I tried to get the help of some of my officers, and what I find is that the Budget consists of a large number of figures, with regard to some of which I had to take the help of some of my student friends. But the Budget of a Government like this, having so many millions of people under its charge, and of a Government responsible like this, should not be in figures alone, but should have a policy underlying these figures. I tried to read it through and through, in order to find if there was a principle underlying it. I failed to notice it. I found figures on this side of it, figures on the other side, and figures all round—I was befooled by figures. That is not the way in which we should have the Budget. After so many years of British rule, does it stand to our credit that not even 8 per cent. of our population can read or write? Is it to our credit that when we go to the villages we find village after village is practically being devastated by malaria, kala-azar, and all places where water for drinking purposes existed are filled up with water-hyacinth? The people are dying for want of drinking water—what to speak of reading or writing. They have no good roads—they have to wade through knee-deep of mud and water. We should have a policy in a Budget in order to remove

these crying needs. I do not mean that these can be removed by electricity or a magic wand. You should begin with a policy for every department, so that the people may feel that something is being done. On reading through the Budget I find that in regard to various departments, *e.g.*, Education, Forest, Agriculture, Industries, etc., provision only has been made for the salaries of high officials and establishments, provision for big houses—provision for bricks and mortar so to speak. Here to-day I put a question to my friend the Hon'ble Minister as to what was the policy about the provincialisation of schools, and he could not tell me what it is. Our people are very backward; so backward that they cannot maintain a high school. These departments whether you call them Departments of Education, Public Health, Industries, or Agriculture, are only high sounding names to us, but what benefit do the people in the villages derive from them? And what have they done to the industries you talk of? I myself can give you an instance. In my own village there was a paper industry. Some of my friends who had been to Chittagong will bear me out that there are still papers in which the records are preserved, and there was a good industry for manufacturing that sort of paper. Now that industry is gone and the people are suffering. Formerly people used to take salt water from the sea and prepare salt for their own consumption. Now they have to get salt from Liverpool. This is the sort of development that we have got. And you have got a Department of Industries. We must tell the Government that this is not the way to go on. These much vaunted departments will not satisfy the people. Another thing is that you complain, and rightly complain, that there is disaffection and discontent in the land. Why, for the simple reason, that here the people live in 4-storeyed houses, and you have not only got electric fans for your own use, but for the nurses also you make liberal and generous provision for electric installation in their quarters. You should make provision for the people in the villages who have to live in hovels and huts and who have not got money enough to buy half-a-seer of rice to fill their stomachs. I think that some of our high Government officials should go and visit our villages during the rains and should see how they can go about through mud and water, so that they might see the contrast. That is why the people say: Why should we be treated in this shabby way? That is the reason why there is discontent in the land. You cannot administer by providing for bricks and mortar, but you have to look to the real needs of the people. You will have to give them sufficient education and also to provide employment, so that they can keep their body and soul together. There is discontent all through, not only among the masses but also among your own officers. I may tell you that you stand on a precipitous rock. Many of you gentlemen hold high-salaried posts——

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am afraid, you are addressing the members of the House; you should address your remarks to me.

Khan Sahib Maulvi ABDUS SATTAR: Many of these high-salaried men sit at the top, but their underlings who do the spade work have to live on 30 or 40 rupees a month. That is the reason why there is discontent in all the departments. It is the lower portion of the staff which bear the brunt of the whole thing, but they cannot make their both ends meet. They cannot live from day to day. There is discontent there. So there is another difficulty for this Government. There is discontent outside and there is discontent inside, and you do not try to remedy it. The position is this: Our Government, as has been rightly stated, has become top-heavy and rests on weak foundations. What is the basis of Government? Government does not rest on high-paid officers, but it rests on the contentment of the masses. If the people under their charge die away through want or are carried away in thousands by fell diseases, you will only reign over barren tracts and deserts; and not only that, if they find that their discontent knows no bound, what will happen? We may make speeches in the Council, but what will the people do? They will take to suicidal measures and go before machine-guns and kill themselves, leaving you to reign over deserts. You must change the entire policy affecting every department, so that people may feel that they are not being neglected.

We have another difficulty in the mufassal. Here in the Council we meet officials who talk to us and treat us kindly. But in the villages some of the District Officers—some Burra Sahibs—do not show any sympathy at all. The unsympathetic treatment of those officers in the mufassal breeds discontent also. The whole policy has got to be recast and then, not before that, people will feel sympathy and love for you. Before that you cannot complain if there is discontent.

Now, with regard to special heads. With regard to "Land Revenue" I find that a lot of money has been earmarked for survey operations. The amount is Rs. 38 lakhs, and out of that Rs. 22 lakhs have been reserved for survey operations. We have got an allotment of Rs. 25,000 for an aeroplane survey of the reserved forests. In the Chittagong district we have got three permanent allotments——

(Here the member having reached his time-limit had to resume his seat.)

Babu SACHINDRA NARAYAN SANYAL: I congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Member for his lucid statement in presenting the Budget for 1927-28. To us it is some relief, as we are not going to have a deficit year yet. We look in vain for any policy for the real welfare of the people or for the development of nation building departments.

It appears from the Budget estimates that we have three principal sources of revenue, *viz.*, (1) Land revenue, (2) Excise, and (3) Stamp. The Excise revenue depends on drink and narcotic habits, and the Stamp revenue depends upon our habit of litigation. The Hon'ble the Finance Member has hoped that increased receipts from liquors and opium should continue and has been "optimistic enough to hope for some improvement" in Stamp revenue. May I ask, is it desirable that our revenues should increase by cultivating the habit of intemperance of the people, or should the evil of litigation, which fritters away poor people's money and energies, be encouraged? Although Excise and Stamp revenues have been characterised as the main sources of income of Government, we must not loose sight of the fact that these are undesirable sources, and it is the duty of Government to check and control these sources for the benefit of society.

Turning now to the expenditure side, I first take up the Police grant. The increased expenditure under "Police" is due to the equipment of the force, to better and more adequate housing accommodation, to a proposal for strengthening the "striking strength of the Calcutta Police Force by the creation of an additional Company of Armed Police, etc." Sir, any increase of grants under the head "Police" has always been viewed with disfavour. Personally speaking, I am against ruthless cutting down of expenditure of the Police Department to the detriment of efficiency, but I would desire to point out to the Hon'ble Member to effect reasonable retrenchment in this department in order to feed the starving nation-building departments. To my disappointment I do not find any scheme of improving the status of ill-paid Indian officers; there is no scheme for recruitment of literate constables. In the matter of building accommodation, I am sorry to find that the claims of the Bengal Police have been neglected in comparison with their fellow colleagues in the Calcutta Police, and that there is some racial discrimination even in this building programme. The Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Police who come of respectable families, and are better educated than the sergeants, have quarters worse than those allotted to these sergeants.

We are very thankful to Government for making a provision of Rs. 2,70,000 for improving the pay of "trained and untrained teachers in aided primary schools and *maktabs*", and also for providing a sum of Rs. 1,50,000 "for the improvement of pay and prospects of teachers of non-Government secondary schools", who are a very poor class, having no additional income like many other officers of Government whose pay has been increased to a very large extent "following largely on economic conditions". I am also glad to find provision for the education of backward communities. I am sorry to find that no provision has been made for the world renowned Bose Research Institute of Calcutta, Bangiya Sahitya Parishad, and the poor grant allotted to the Varendra Research Society of Rajshahi has been reduced. As

I go through the expenditure in connection with the Medical Department, I am glad to see that the schemes of Jalpaiguri and Chittagong Medical Schools have been approved. But I find with great pain that Government have not discontinued the practice of levying a fee on indoor patients of hospitals. I would suggest to the Hon'ble the Finance Member to abolish this fee. I would also like to point out that, in view of the fact that a grant has been allotted to the Eden Sanitorium, provision ought to have been made for the Lewis Jubilee Sanitorium which is the only shelter of middle class people in the health resort of Darjeeling.

I should also like to make a few observations regarding the grant allotted to the Public Health Department. It simply takes my breath away when I find that only a sum of Rs. 80,000 has been provided for "intensive malarial measures in rural areas", a paltry sum of Rs. 30,000 allotted for maternity and child-welfare organisation, while a sum of Rs. 60,000 has been provided for the bungalow of the District Magistrate of Pabna! And the wonder of wonders is that the magnificent sum of Rs. 2,50,000 has been provided "to local bodies for improvement of rural water-supply". Sir, those who live in the mufassal know what water-famine means. Go to any village in my district (Rajshahi) you like and you will find that our women-folk are seen drawing water under the burning sun from a distance of 4 or 5 miles and even more. In the programme of water-works the omission of the Hon'ble the Finance Member for providing an adequate grant for Rajshahi Water-Works cannot be accounted for, specially when large donations have been promised for this urgently-needed project. I would also like to point out that for a populous province like Bengal, Rs. 1,20,000 for Quinine distribution, Rs. 1,90,000 for anti-kala-azar campaign, Rs. 23,000 for epidemics are considered as mere doles.

Coming to my own district, I am sorry I do not find any provision for the Agricultural College for which a large legacy has been left by the late Kumar Basanta Kumar Ray of Dighapatia. Bengal is an agricultural country. Is it not my duty to ask Government to establish a well-equipped Agricultural College in this province? Kala-azar is a formidable menace to the district. The silting up of the Baral river at its mouth near Sardah and the silting up of the Narad have prejudicially affected the sanitation of a large portion of the districts of Rajshahi and Pabna. In a Budget which makes liberal provision for so many public works of that nature, the abovementioned omissions are regrettable.

In conclusion, I would urge upon the Hon'ble the Finance Member to deal with our needs with real and large-hearted sympathy. The hot season is fast approaching, and there will be anguish from all corners of the province for water. The menace of water-hyacinth is

choking up our waters and water routes. Mass education is not progressing, disease and economic distress are sucking the vitality of the nation. I hope Government will not lend a deaf ear to the cries of popular representatives and will make substantial efforts to alleviate the miseries of the people.

Rai JADUNATH MAZUMDAR Bahadur: The Government of Bengal both in the reserved as well as the transferred departments has not fared well at the hands of the higher authorities: I mean the Central Government and the Secretary of State. The arrangement by which all elastic revenues—I mean from Customs duty and Income-tax—were appropriated for the Central Government and Bengal was left to rely on the inelastic land revenue to provide for her ever-increasing needs, was not at all a satisfactory one. And all the protests—the combined protests of both the transferred as well as the reserved departments—had no effect whatsoever on the Imperial Government and the Secretary of State. Sir, we are in the same miserable condition as when these Reforms were started, although a little mercy was shown to this province by the remission of the provincial contribution of Rs. 63 lakhs by the Imperial Government. There is absolutely a hope, however, of better finance till the arrival of the next Royal Statutory Commission. In the meantime we must be prepared to cut our coat according to our cloth. Money is necessary, I believe, all round for all departments, be they transferred or reserved. You require money for Agriculture, Industry, Education, as well as for Police and other Departments. There is discontent among various officers that they are not being properly paid—discontent in the Subordinate Educational and Executive Services, discontent in the Judicial Service, discontent everywhere. Discontent, however, shows life. Now, Sir, if we want money we must show where and how to find it. It will not do simply to say that we want this or we want that, but we must show to Government—both transferred and reserved departments—as to where to get the money from. I want to make some suggestions in this connection. I want nobody to accept them all at once, but I would request the Government to consider them. Take, for instance, Sir, the land revenue. The land revenue in this province is not elastic on accounts of the permanent settlement. The zamindars and other landholders with permanent interest all over the province are almost in constant dread lest the permanent settlement might be wrecked by the present or any future Council. But if the net income of these landlords be considered, then we shall find the landlords are not in that prosperous condition in which the people generally think them to be. And I can daresay, if statistics be taken, it will be found that too much exaggeration is made as regards the net income and unearned increment of the landlords. Suppose, Sir, the landlords of this country are enjoying the advantages, which, I

say, they are not, as I said before Mr. Montagu as well as Lord Chelmsford. What is to be done then? I told them "Acquire all these permanent interests, give the owners 20 years' purchase in Government papers, and all the zamindars of Bengal will be quite satisfied. Purchase all permanent interests and then by practising what we call intensive cultivation you may increase the income of Bengal hundredfold as is done in America and other European countries." That can be done, but instead of doing all this, what is the use of disturbing the relation between landlords and tenants? I say this purchase may be made one source of income.

There is another source of income. There are splendid rivers all over Bengal, most of which are dying or already dead, and if steps are taken to canalise them, much income can be made out of them.

Then there is another source. There is a vast area of what is called uncultivated land at present in Bengal. Anyone who does not know anything of the extent of the uncultivated land cannot but be surprised that such a large area of land should still remain uncultivated. Why should not Government acquire all this land and make it *khas-mahal* and increase its income by practising intensive cultivation? Then there are other potential sources of income. I cannot understand why should not the Bengal Government have their own salt manufactory. Bengal was noted for salt manufacture, and we have abundant salt all very close to our doors. If Bengal gets a salt manufactory again we could make some income out of it also. There are many other possible sources of income, but I believe nobody has given any serious attention to these matters and they have been allowed to drift without any definite policy as to how to proceed. Every country, or rather the prosperity of every country depends upon the regulation of its water. Bengal has abundant water, although the rainfall has decreased on account of the deforestation that was ruthlessly going on for some years. But still there are splendid rivers, and if one looks back only a few years before the British rule he will find that all the foreign travellers like Bowrey Tavernier, Bernier, the Venetian Cæsar Federici and Megasthenes declared that Bengal was the fairest province in India. Tavernier could not find any other country like Bengal in which all sorts of commodities could be found. At that time Bengal had an abundant production of sugar, silk and cotton, and after meeting her own requirements Bengal used to export these articles to foreign countries in large quantities. So honey, butter, milk, rice, oils and lacca—all these articles were produced in plenty. The villages were populated, rivers were full and there were signs of prosperity in all directions, and whosoever travelled in the country was struck with its health, plenty and resourcefulness. Bengal has not now got sufficient milk even for her own drink. Even in a mufassal district like Jessore milk sells at annas 12 a seer which few can afford to buy. There is no pasture land now, and I believe there

has been a serious deterioration of cattle in Bengal. Bengalis are a fish-eating people, and all over India they are called by the name of fish-eaters. Fish is a very nutritious food and many people say that the intelligence of Bengal is due to the fish-eating habit. We have got a Fishery Department and I remember years ago, a friend of mine was appointed Commissioner of Fisheries—but where is the fish? The rivers are all gone and fish cannot grow on land! I have been crying now for the last 39 years for the improvement of rivers in Jessore and Nadia and other districts, but my cry has been a cry in the wilderness. I began at the time of Sir Stuart Bayley but have not been able to do anything—and why? Because the policy of Government has been all along to make roads and railways. Government forgets that in Bengal rivers are the natural high-ways. Rivers also supply good drinking water; rivers give us easy communications; rivers fertilise our soil and rivers by their floods destroy epidemic diseases by flushing the country. But these rivers have been systematically neglected not only in the district of Jessore but all over the province—in the Presidency, Burdwan, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Dacca Divisions. I have taken a good deal of trouble in investigating into the causes of deterioration of rivers not only in the Presidency Division but also in other divisions, and I am convinced that, if timely notice is not taken, all those rivers which are still alive would be silted up in no time. The other day I wrote a letter to the Secretary to the Irrigation Department saying that the river Ichamati, which was still a live river, was likely to be in danger on account of the silt bar at its mouth. But I have been told that Government is watching it. They will watch and watch until the mouth will be closed and the river dead. I would therefore suggest that for each division there should be a River Improvement Trust just as we have got the Port Commissioners Trust and the Calcutta Improvement Trust and unless we have got such Trusts the rivers would be left to the mercy of my esteemed friend Mr. Addams-Williams who, I believe, is the only person now who knows anything about rivers. We have no hope for the future of Bengal which was once a prosperous country unless our rivers are revived. Our forefathers knew that even spiritual vision could not be attained unless one had got material prosperity and the Hindus are made to pray " আপোঽবিদ্বা মঘোনুব স্তান ঊর্জে দধাতন মহে রণায় চক্ষসে— "

Upon the regulation of water, I say again, depends the material prosperity of every country. I have studied the river systems of France, Germany, America, Japan and Egypt and wherever I turn my eyes I find that without water you cannot do anything. Water is the great solution of all problems, health, wealth—industry, agriculture and commerce—and education. Nothing could be attained

without water. Water, water, water, is the cry everywhere. Dig and dig, that is the cry of every Bengali.

(At this stage the Council was adjourned for 10 minutes.)

[After the adjournment.]

Maharaj Kumar SRIS CHANDRA NANDY: This is the last Budget estimate that has been presented to this Council by the Hon'ble Mr. Donald and it is much to be regretted that he has not been able to present a prosperity Budget. We can well sympathise with him for the reasons which have contributed to the deficit. The general depression in trade, which is unfortunately the outstanding feature in the present situation, and the fall in the price of jute have exercised a depressing influence upon the revenue. This, it may well be said, is an index of the economic condition of the people at the present time, when they are so hard hit by a variety of adverse circumstances. The dark shadow, which is instinct with such sinister significance, cannot but be regarded with serious misgivings. Evidently the causes which have brought about the economic deterioration in the condition of the people have come to stay and it is a matter, which gives pain to all who have the best interests of the country at heart. However the Hon'ble Finance Member deserves our congratulations on the improvement that has been effected in the financial position of the province during his term of office. Progress has been made in lightening the burden of provincial contribution that sat like a nightmare upon Bengal. The partial relief that has been secured by the remission is, of course, temporary and we join with the Finance Member in the hope he has expressed that the relief might be permanent in reality. A great deal remains to be done for extending the usefulness of the transferred departments, in which the people are so vitally interested. We would like to see a real and substantial advance in education, public health, agriculture, industries and other cognate matters. But this will remain as a mere pious hope, so long as the finances are not placed on a satisfactory basis.

There is one important point to which I desire to call attention. It is not a safe or sound procedure to make the expenditure tally with the income by an inroad into the balances. The arrangement is open to exception, for however convenient it may be on paper, inherently it is altogether unsound.

I must raise a note of protest against the inability of the Government to spend the budgeted amount on schemes of public utility. I cannot understand why the Irrigation Department has not spent as much as was anticipated, especially in connection with the drainage schemes. The schemes for dealing with the water-hyacinth, which so seriously threatens the river system of Bengal and the district public

health organisation, which does not brook delay in view of the appalling conditions rampant in the mufassal, have not advanced towards successful realisation. I take this opportunity to impress on the Government the necessity of pushing forward drainage schemes, so that the health conditions may be improved. The provision made for irrigation in the budget fails far short of the actual requirements. I am glad that provision has been made for the improvement of the Gobra Nala in Murshidabad. The delay in undertaking dredging operations in the Bhagirathi causes us much concern and anxiety.

Sir, Public Health again, shows a lower estimate. I cannot understand what the Hon'ble Member means when he says "that the demands on us for public health purposes have been lesser in amount". This is somewhat cryptic, regard being had to the strength of the plea put forward by the public for the improvement of health and conditions of living.

Turning to the Agriculture Department, I find that an additional expert officer is to be appointed who will be known as Agricultural Engineer. I think it is time that the Government recognised that what is wanted more than anything else for the improvement of agriculture is not so much the importation of experts rejoicing in high-sounding designations as the carrying of the lessons of improved scientific and up-to-date cultivation, including processes for intensive cultivation, to the doors of the agricultural classes, who are so far behind the times. A comprehensive scheme of agricultural education is also an urgent and imperious necessity. At last provision has been made for agricultural education in middle and high schools. But in order that such instruction may reach the sons of the actual tillers of the soil, it is necessary that the primary schools should also be utilized, so far as possible, for the purposes of agricultural training. It is sad to contemplate that Bengal is the only major province that has not been endowed with a full-fledged Agricultural College. The failure of the experiments undertaken at Dacca and Chinsura does not necessarily mean that there is no demand in this province for live agricultural institutions.

The progressive augmentation of the grant during the next three years for the development of technical and industrial education calls for a word of appreciation. But there is great room for increase in the number of such institutions and the public will hail with satisfaction the establishment of an intimate relation between the Industries Department and the cause of the development of our indigenous industries. When I think of the growing and acute problem of unemployment among the *bhadralok* classes, I heartily desire that the department might justify its *raison d'etre* by making a beginning to cope with the evil by well-thought-out schemes with a practical and not theoretical bias.

With regard to Education, it is somewhat satisfactory to note that a further instalment of subventions has been made towards improving the remuneration of primary school teachers. But while something has been done in this respect, a great deal still remains to be done for brightening up the position and prospects of those who have in their hands the training of our children at the very threshold of their educational career and who are given miserable pittances on which it is hardly possible to keep body and soul together. Mr. Biss's scheme for the advance of primary education in Bengal has been undertaken by very few mufassal municipalities for the paucity of funds at their disposal. True, the Government has agreed to bear half the cost of maintenance as well as capital charges. But even half the initial expenditure is too much for the poor municipalities and it will be in the fitness of things if the Government provides for the whole of the initial cost. The scanty provision for physical instruction in colleges and schools is far too small for the purpose considering the usually anæmic and debilitated constitution of our boys. It is incomprehensible why no provision whatsoever has been made for military training, specially in educational institutions outside Calcutta.

Last year I expressed my disappointment that the Borstal system had not been introduced in our prisons. I heartily welcome, therefore, the move that has been made in this respect and the experiment that is to be introduced in the jail at Bankura for the reformation of youthful offenders into useful and honest citizens.

As usual, the Police budget is inflated and it is even higher than the revised estimate for the current year. The plea has again been trotted out that better and more adequate housing conditions are necessary for the police force. This plea cannot go down with the public when they find that many projects connected with the nation-building departments are starved and the police expenditure is allowed to mount forward with one pretext or another. I must protest with all the emphasis I can command against the proposal for financing the expenditure of the Calcutta police building from loan.

There is a proposal to form a Central Road Board for all India. I ask, what is the local Government doing to improve communications and make the roads suitable for transport in a pre-eminently agricultural province like Bengal.

This year a sum of just over 1¼ lakhs of rupees arising from ferry revenue has been made over to the local authorities in response to the oft-repeated demand of the public. This, I need hardly say, will be greatly helpful to local bodies, handicapped as they are by their limited resources.

Sir, I plead in all earnestness for a general co-ordinated policy of rural development. The cry of the hour is for village reconstruction

and this has been taken up with great enthusiasm by all classes and sections of the community. An energetic policy of rural development, planned wisely, endowed substantially and carried out consistently, will be a concession to public opinion, which will be much appreciated.

I must emphasise once again the need of larger expenditure on co-operation, agriculture, public health, technological instructions and industrial development. The policy of giving by driblets may be sanctioned by usage of long standing. But in the exigencies of the present circumstances, it is of the highest importance that substantial grants, conceived in a spirit of broad-minded statesmanship, should be made to nation-building purposes so as to produce a lasting impression and enduring results.

Maulvi MOHAMED SADEQUE: As a student of economics I had great faith in me that I understand something of economics and I can find out cannons of taxation. But, Sir, I have spent four long days to find out a systematic system of taxation or rather the cannons of taxation adopted by the Government of Bengal. I have been able to find out the *modus operandi* so far as the receipt side is concerned but it is based not on any system or method. You are at once confronted to find out a regular principle underlying the present system. It is very painful to say that after a careful study I have found out that it is the poor that are oppressed, it is the poor that are heavily taxed and it is the poor again who are given a little or no share of the public fund. It is the rich who are made to escape taxation, it is they who are deriving the greatest advantage and are being profited by the public fund and it is they who are less oppressed.

To begin with, your net land revenue is Rs. 3,14,12,000, and not more than some thousand rupees, you get from the area under Calcutta Corporation. You realise jute cess to the extent of eleven lakhs and not a *cowrie* from Calcutta proper. From the sale of judicial stamp you earn Rs. 3,48,00,000 and how much from Calcutta Corporation area? But of these I shall discuss later.

This is probably the most iniquitous impost levied by the Government. I call it iniquitous because it distinguishes classes from classes, an offence against one of the most fundamental cannons of taxation. You levy *ad valorem* court fees at the rate varying from Rs. 7-8 to Rs. 11-4 when the value of suit does not exceed Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000, while for all suits of value higher than this amount the *ad valorem* court fee is charged at the gradually decreasing rate till you reach the highest level of court fees for all sums exceeding Rs. 11 lakhs for which you have prescribed a fixed court fee of Rs. 10,000, *i.e.*, the brunt of your taxation falls upon the poorer classes who are least able to pay and you have reserved your exemption for the richest classes. By taxing the poor at the highest rate and by exempting the

rich you have departed from the most fundamental principle of taxation, that the taxation should primarily fall upon the shoulders of those who can bear it best and the greater the wealth the higher should be the rate at which it ought to be taxed. Your iniquity does not end there. You have created a specially privileged class who litigate in the original side of the High Court. It is these people for whom you have reserved all your considerations in the way of exempting them from paying their proper share of taxation to the exchequer. While a litigant from the mufassal has to pay Rs. 10,000 as *ad valorem* court fee for a suit of the value of Rs. 11 lakhs and the same amount again if he comes on appeal to the High Court, your privileged class in Calcutta who litigate for the same value has to pay a fixed court fee of Rs. 15 at the filing and thereafter at the rate of Rs. 10 for every day of hearing. In the Calcutta Small Cause Courts also the same principle is applied. Your privileged classes are allowed to get justice by the highly paid Judges at the minimum expenses. Besides the pay of the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court in the Original Side and the Judges of the Court of Small Causes you are to maintain the office of the Registrar at a cost of Rs. 4,82,000 a year and the Courts of Small Causes for Calcutta cost you Rs. 2,61,000 a year. The proceeds of the sale of judicial stamps in these courts do not exceed one thousandth part of the revenue you realise from other parts of the province.

I believe there is not a civilised country in the world which shows a more monstrous, more uncivilised instance than one you have maintained in the Original Side of the High Court and appeals therefrom and also in the Courts of Small Causes in Calcutta, for the benefit of the barristers, attorneys and litigants of the Original Side. As a member representing several hundreds of thousands of poor people in the mufassal who are being bled-wide for it for the benefits of your privileged classes in Calcutta I ask this House who has in its keeping the welfare of the millions throughout the entire rural Bengal to reject your whole demand under this head as a protest against your most iniquitous system of taxation.

Another flagrant instance in which the country is being deliberately sacrificed for Calcutta is the large amount of money under one excuse or another being spent annually from the taxation provided almost exclusively by the country for the embellishment of the city. The Improvement Trust is a co-ordinating authority of the Corporation for improving the sanitary condition and æsthetic beauty of the city. This year Rs. 1,50,000 have been budgeted for Calcutta Improvement Trust. The funds for its operations are mainly derived from the terminus tax and jute cess, both of which come from the resources of the country. It is a matter of great wonder that the civilised government of the 20th century should tax the jute-growers of Bengal, who live in the swamps of Eastern Bengal wrecking with malaria, kala-azar and every form of epidemic, underfed, underclothed, scarcely able

to find a glass of pure drinking water within 20 miles of their cottage, to rear palaces in Calcutta and to pave the streets of the city with dust-proof-tar-macadam. Within the city itself there are broad spacious highways running in every direction through the *maidan* and along the Strand which are maintained by the Public Works Department at an enormous cost. A new race-course on an imperial scale has been opened at Barrackpore and gamblers, punters, bookies, totalisers hurry from all quarters of the city to the pleasure grounds at Barrackpore several times each week. To save this most useful fraternity from jolting on the road, you are providing a smooth road surface with tar for the motor cars right through the whole length of the Trunk Road lying entirely within the Corporation that run to Barrackpore race-course. Lately you have begun the policy of throwing up several bridges at various points on the Hooghly and on other *khals* and you have either taken money from the provincial fund or propose to take several lakhs this year and propose a levy of permanent recurring charge upon them to the extent of several lakhs each year. While you are thus throwing away millions of poor man's money and lavishing them upon the rich citizens, if we come to you for a small dole for improvement of roads and sanitation of the villages or to provide a modest supply of drinking water or hospitals you are always raising before us the bobby of Meston Award. You have provided in this budget several lakhs for roads and bridges and water-supply for the district of Darjeeling, for the sub-division of Kalimpong for the benefit of a handful of Europeans, though you do not derive more than some thousand rupees from that district as revenue under all heads. For Duars you have budgeted about Rs. 26 lakhs for roads and bridges for the benefit of some privileged classes. You have provided about Rs. 12 lakhs for other constructions in places within or near about Calcutta, while the other parts of Bengal are groaning under systematic attacks of malaria, kala-azar and other fell diseases. Do you mean to say the other parts of Bengal, which fill in your exchequer require no money, do not require roads or bridges? District Boards are not supplied with adequate funds—no other fund is there available, for the poor require nothing of the kind, their lives are no better or rather worse than that of the cats and dogs of privileged classes of Calcutta.

You have costly hospitals in Calcutta. You are spending several lakhs for Calcutta but a mufassal patient is supplied with medicine worth about a pie on the average, Calcutta absorbing almost all the amount budgeted under this head and only a paltry sum of some thousand rupees are given to District Boards as hospital aids. A village patient while dying perhaps sings in praise of Bengal Government in the following way:—

"More cruelty could none expect,
If you had shown me the less,
Had been you prisoner still."

Agriculture is a department kept up for show; from the careful study of the budget one finds that not one-fourth of the cost of the maintenance of the department is utilised for the purpose for which the highly paid officials are kept. Agriculture is a department which provides no culture for the agriculturists. No seed, no manure, no advice, no method of cultivation can be had from this department.

Sub-deputy collectors and deputy collectors employed in settlement operation discharge the same duties, are placed in the same environment, are to incur same amount of expenditure and have to undergo same amount of hardship—if not more—for lower in degree the more the terror of loosing the job and the harder the task, but the allowance of a deputy collector is Rs. 100 a month and that of a sub-deputy collector is Rs. 50. Sub-deputy collectors employed as circle officers are given a fixed travelling allowance for the supervision of union boards' works but all sorts of works—enquiry under Bengal Tenancy Act, Probate and Administration Act and judicial enquiry—are being done by them and for these extra works and trouble and travel they are not paid a farthing more. This is how Govrenment is administering even-handed justice to all its officials and subjects. An artificial distinction has been created in the Bengal Civil Service.

The expenses of the Calcutta Police is and necessarily must be out of all proportion to the expenses in the rest of the country. In England, municipal police is paid by the municipal authorities. In rural Bengal even the poor house-holder has to pay heavy impost in the form of chaukidari cess. There is no reason why the Calcutta Corporation, with its diverse need for traffic regulation, vehicle department and so forth should not be called upon to pay at least half the cost of the Calcutta Police. At Pabna, after the riots, you have called upon the inhabitants of the affected area to bear the entire expenses of the punitive police, but in Calcutta justification for the levy was much greater and the entire population in some area carried a systematic campaign of murder, assassination, looting, incendiarism. The cost of the additional police has never been sought to be imposed upon these areas; on the contrary, you are trying to shift the burden of additional police in Calcutta upon the provincial exchequer, *i.e.*, you are penalising the poor agriculturists of the province for the crimes of Calcutta. The Calcutta Police is manned except to a small extent by the non-Muslims. Corruption, favouritism are the order of the day. Large traffic in cocaine and gambling is being carried on under the patronage and in partnership of some police officers. Non-matric, untried men, men found incompetent, men suspended, degraded, adjudged as perjurers are being promoted without intermission while the qualified Muslims are pushed back perhaps through the black pen of a non-Muslim in confidential pages.

Your Education budget presents a disappointing view to the Muslim. You spend only Rs. 15½ lakhs for Muslim boys and Rs. 65 lakhs for

non-Muslim boys, in the secondary, collegiate, professional and technical institutions. Still greater inequality in the secondary and collegiate education of females involving a distribution of the total sum spent from the public fund in the proportion of Rs. 20 thousands or less for Muslim girls and Rs. 7½ lakhs for Hindu girls. Curse the *purdah* system in any language you can but the fact is here, Muslim girls have peculiar environment and aptitude; give them the sort of education attractive to them. You have recognised the principle in the education of European and Eurasian boys and girls. Muslims used to man the departments during the Hon'ble East India Company's régime and after that what is the position now, for you to say. You have allowed the Calcutta University to spend lakhs and lakhs of rupees exclusively for the study of Hindu civilisation and Hindu culture and research but only a paltry sum for Muslim culture and research.

Babu AMULYA CHANDRA DATTA: Sir, I must congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Member on his self-complacency in presenting the Budget. He seems to be under the impression that he has been able to steer the barque of the Bengal finances clear out of troubled waters, and to put it on a stable and sound footing, and he assures us that this state of things will continue unless our representatives in the Legislative Assembly prove pig-headed enough to depreciate the sterling value of the rupee. Speaking for myself, I am afraid I cannot share his optimistic feelings and look upon his financial statement as nothing more than a humdrum one—absolutely irresponsive to popular demands and opinion, unredeemed by the faintest streak of any policy calculated to improve the lot of the millions of Indians sunk in deep ignorance, and abject poverty, and utterly devoid of that broad outlook and imaginative sympathy which we ordinarily look out for in the utterances or policies of wise Chancellors or Finance Members. A budget will have to be judged by the policy lying behind it. Is there any clear and well-defined policy behind the Hon'ble Mr. Donald's statement? If there be any, it utterly ignores the country's needs and requirements which must constitute the only test for determining whether the Budget is a satisfactory one or not. I do not blame the Hon'ble Mr. Donald, for he alone is not responsible for the policy of the Government. He has simply found out the money for the carrying out of a policy dictated from above or by the whole Government of which he is only a part. Can that policy which subordinates the interests of the many to those of the few command our sympathy and support? Is the policy which takes no note of the grinding misery of the millions in the remote villages—the real producers of wealth—entitled to any support from their representatives? The Hon'ble the Finance Member feels gratified that this year he has been able to budget for a few lakhs more for the transferred departments than in other

years, and in doing so he seems to say: "Lo and behold, we are full of the milk of humanity for you and see what sacrifices we have made." The Hon'ble Mr. Donald tells us naively: "So we have allotted as much as was possible, consistent with the requirements of all departments from the funds that have been available." The implication is that the departments of the Government are water-tight compartments, and each department is eager to have its pound of flesh from the Finance Member. The root of the trouble lies there. The policy underlying this state of things seems to be sanctioned by British Indian administrators for years. I do not know whether that policy is a wise one but what I do know is that when a house is burning or a catastrophe befalls a household, the bulk of its resources, if not all, are devoted to save it from extinction. Bengal is in that plight and by Bengal I mean Sonar Bangla—the rural Bengal—the real Bengal—centred in the remote villages and huts and not in cities and palaces. If the Hon'ble Members on the Treasury Benches and their lesser fries abroad in the mufassal ever cared to have a peep into these huts and see how the real Bengal lives in squalor and rags and if they had really and sincerely considered themselves to be trustees of the nation as they proclaim themselves from house-tops to justify their existence or continuance in India, I am confident they would not have framed the budget in the way they have been doing for years past.

Sir, speaking in Calcutta on the 6th January, 1912, His Majesty the King-Emperor said: "It is my wish that there may be spread over the land a network of schools and colleges from which will go forth loyal and manly and useful citizens, able to hold their own in industries and agriculture and all the vocations of life. And it is my wish too, that the homes of my Indian subjects may be brightened and their labour sweetened by the spread of knowledge with all that follows in its train, a higher level of thought, of comfort and of health. It is through education that my wish will be fulfilled and the cause of education in India will ever be close to my heart."

These are the utterances of a true statesman—a real King of men whose heart is full of anxious solicitude for the welfare of his subjects and whose intellectual vision is far-sighted enough to envisage the possibilities and potentialities of the nation. The bureaucracy to whom is committed the administration of the country is too wooden to be able to take a wide and statesmanlike view of things. Sir, to be able to survive the ravages of famine and distress and to resist the onslaught of the fell diseases that are stalking abroad the land and devastating the whole country, what we primarily and absolutely require is education. Sir, I am a great believer in education and it is my firm conviction that education is the remedy of most of the ills to which the body politic is subject. I therefore appreciate the noble sentiments of His Majesty. Let us see, Sir, how far His Majesty's agents in India to

whom a *carte blanche* has been given have been able to carry out the policy laid down by His Majesty. Has there been any appreciable increase in the percentage of literacy in India since January, 1912? In the census of 1921 only 9·1 per cent. of the population of Bengal was shown as literate—a term which implies something very short of educated—and in 1924 only 12·5 per cent. of the children of the school-going age were attending school. We have been agitating and agitating for primary education. Beyond doling out from time to time some amounts for expenditure on this head and appointing committees and commissions for preparing schemes, no serious and sincere effort has been made to remove illiteracy amongst the people. The bureaucracy stands condemned judged in the light of His Majesty's remarks.

The record of the Government with regard to sanitation is equally bad. The Finance Member assures us that he has been able to do well by this department also. Beyond augmenting some grants on this head or doling out some amounts by way of charity, I am afraid he has done nothing to tackle the problem. The percentage of deaths in Bengal—the highest in all civilised countries—is a standing disgrace to British Indian administration. Now, Sir, it has been repeatedly dinned into the ears of Government officials that the effluent discharges of the septic tanks of the mills on either side of the river Hooghly have been doing incalculable mischief and have made the riparian municipalities the hot-beds of cholera and other water-borne diseases. It was much to be desired that the Government had helped those poor municipalities which could not afford to pay for water-works with grants or subventions to carry out their schemes of water-works. The Budget is absolutely silent on the point. As the representative of these municipalities of the Hooghly district I would impress on the Government the necessity of either helping the local bodies with funds for installation of water-works, or taking steps to prevent the pollution of river water.

Then, Sir, I come to the question of the water-supply of rural areas. Last year the Government provided for Rs. 2,50,000 for expenditure on this head through their officers. Apart from the insufficiency of the grant, I would question the wisdom of opening a separate agency for this work although the local bodies have got statutory powers and are engaged in coping with the demand with the small sums at their disposal. The Government ought to make over these amounts to the local bodies to be spent by them. The sum doled by Government and the amount that can be spared by the local bodies are too inadequate for the purpose. Want of good drinking water is responsible for most of the diseases that have been devastating rural Bengal. During three or four months of the year water becomes so very scarce in the villages that it is not a rare sight to see people, mostly women, trudging along three or four miles to have even a pitcher or two of muddy water so that they might quench their thirst. I would suggest that a survey

of the actual needs of the rural areas with regard to water-supply may be made and an estimate of the costs may be prepared with the help of the local bodies, at once. Tube-wells have proved a success in many places and instead of wasting money on Governor's bands, saloons and other luxuries of highly paid officers, instead of wasting money on costly Council Chamber and Government offices and putting up costly statues and memorials in big towns and cities, all this money can be profitably spent on such works of public utility which will not only resuscitate a dying nation but will also help to consolidate and broad-base British rule on the contentment and affection of the people.

Sir, how irresponsive to popular opinion the Government is, will appear from the fact that no steps have yet been taken to give effect to the very reasonable resolution of Mr. Naliniranjan Sarker passed in this Council in February last about the improvement of the rivers and waterways of Bengal. The reform indicated therein will, if carried out, not only help in removing the scourges of Bengal, *viz.*, malaria and kala-azar, but will also add to the wealth of the land. In this connection, Sir, let me be a little partial to my district and refer to the Amta drainage scheme which has been under consideration since 1923. I do not know how many years more will be required for this scheme to materialise. Large tracts of culturable lands measuring about 10 square miles with a few villages dotted here and there lie under water for the greater part of the year with the result that the people there have lost all resisting power through poverty and become easy preys to all sorts of diseases.

Sir, it is useless to refer to the abnormal growth of police expenditure. The Government is impervious to all criticisms. If police expenditure goes on at the present rate at the cost of the nation-building departments, I am afraid before long the activities of the police will have to be confined to the maintenance of law and order amongst the vultures preying upon the dead bodies of the Bengal villagers.

Sir, ours has been a cry in the wilderness. The Government complain of revolutionary activities and conspiracies in the country. I would not be surprised if there are any. I would hold Government responsible for them. The *Statesman*, than whom no more ardent and zealous exponent of Government policy can be found, in its issue of the 25th instant, says:—

"It is probable that, as has often been pointed out, political crime and preparations for political crime in Bengal are very largely due to economic causes. It is among bitter, disappointed, and susceptible young men that the comparatively few terrorists find the readiest material for their propaganda. The youth who after being educated finds that there is not a market for his talents and is condemned to a low standard of life is inflammable matter ready to take part in any agitation, however dangerous, because he attributes his misfortunes to

'something wrong with the system', and seeks for revenge upon society. A real problem that has to be dealt with in India is that of finding work for the educated."

This is a most correct diagnosis of the situation and our leaders have lost no time and spared no pains to convince the Government about the futility of the repressive policy and the necessity of eradicating the root cause of this trouble by initiating and inaugurating reforms which will solve the bread problem. The problem of unemployment has been before the public in all its seriousness for a considerably long time. Has any attempt been made to grapple with it? It cannot be gainsaid that the development of industries is one of the potent factors to solve the problem of unemployment. Mr. Donald rests content with adding new buildings to the Serampore Weaving School and providing for an augmentation in the grant to the extent of Rs. 30,000. Is this sufficient, having regard to the barest needs of the country? We eagerly looked out for a sympathetic policy and we have been sorely disappointed. It seems the Exchequer is not only bankrupt but British Indian statesmanship suffers from that deficiency. It may be said, what use racking one's brains evolving plans and schemes if there be no funds to meet them. My answer is—you have got to rack your brains not only for plans and schemes but also for money to carry them out and therein lies statesmanship. And I am sure if the efforts of the Government be guided by sincerety, it will not be difficult to find out both. Speaking of development of industries, I cannot but draw attention to the cottage industries.....

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, had to resume his seat.)

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AZIZUL HAQUE: May I congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Member for at least doing one tardy act of justice which has been done to the local self-governing bodies in Bengal, *viz.*, by releasing the provincial ferry income in favour of these local bodies. Sir, I remember it was the Hon'ble Maharaja Bahadur who was not in office at that time and probably Mr. Moberly was Collector of Nadia at that time, when it was criticised as an act of brigandage on the part of Government. I am glad that as Members of the Executive Council both the Maharaja and also Mr. Moberly have done an act of tardy justice which has been ventilated by the district boards and municipalities for the last few years.

In the year 1923-24 Bengal started with a deficit budget and three taxation proposals were brought before the House by the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler for a moderate surplus in order to inaugurate a sound loan policy and ultimately to release general revenues to undertake useful and beneficial recurring schemes. Sir Provash Chunder Mitter, who unfortunately is not present now, was at that time the Hon'ble

Minister in charge of Education and his words were that a future loan policy was needed for the many schemes in the nation-building departments; malarial and kala-azar had to be prevented, Bhairab was silting up. These and many other schemes were then shining in the Irrigation Department and in the interests of the poor, Sir Provash said, the three taxation proposals had to be accepted. I must congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Member that towards the end of his career he has been able year after year to get a surplus of Rs. 238 lakhs at the cost of the people and he has successfully wiped away Rs. 46 lakhs out of this surplus this year. It stands to the disgrace of the Government departments that though money is provided for in the budget they are not able to spend that money. This year, in the Education, Agriculture, Public Health Departments, Government have not been able to spend about Rs. 12 lakhs at a time when there is so much to do in the country.

I find that in the coming year the surplus has been fixed at about Rs. 192 lakhs. His Excellency Lord Ronaldshay said in this very House that new taxation proposals had been promulgated with a view to improve deficiency, as a purely temporary expedient, pending further relief on receipt of which the new revenue would become available for schemes of educational, sanitary and medical progress. May I ask the Hon'ble the Finance Member as also the Hon'ble the Minister who has now come to office as to where are these measures of medical, sanitary and educational progress? Where is the revenue which has been set free for the development of nation-building departments? The temporary measures ought now to have received reconsideration but instead of that the Hon'ble the Finance Member has come before the House saying that the new adjustment of machine has not been possible under the present circumstances. I respectfully submit that this is merely an eye-wash and it ought to have been possible for the departments within the last six years to frame schemes. Mr. Donald has played a certain amount of jugglery with figures, and has very carefully given us certain percentages instead of actual figures. When he deals with the transferred departments he not only states the percentage but also gives us the total amount, but in regard to reserved departments he only gives us percentage. He practically says—look how generous we are we have given 26,52,300,19, 34 per cent. for the nation-building departments and only 3,16,10,11, 5 for the reserved departments. I think the Hon'ble Member ought to have disclosed the actual amount allotted to each department of the reserved side. I find that in the Education, Medical, Public Health, Agriculture and Industries Departments there has been a total increase of Rs. 107 lakhs from 1918-19 to 1927-28. Heaven only knows how many lakhs out of this amount has gone towards the increment of salaries and allowances. As against this there has been an increase of Rs. 138

lakhs during those years in police, general administration, justice and land revenue. This is with reference to the years 1918-19 to 1927-28. If we compare with the year 1923-24, we find that in the transferred departments there has been an increase by Rs. 72 lakhs out of which the departments have not been able to spend Rs. 12 lakhs thus bringing the actual increase to Rs. 60 lakhs. But under the reserved heads the increase has been Rs. 54 lakhs. I think Mr. Donald ought to have plainly given us actual figures and not percentages. I find that the total sum in 1927-28 for the transferred departments of Education, Public Health and Agriculture is only Rs. 182 lakhs while Police head alone is responsible for Rs. 189 lakhs. Sir, Mr. Donald ought to have come forward with some constructive proposals but instead of that I find that about Rs. 232 lakhs has been taken year after year as a surplus out of the revenue of the three taxation proposals which came before the House a few years ago. The Finance Member has never come before the House with proposals either for improving the nation-building departments or for the relaxation of these taxation proposals. Instead of that, as I have said, he has taken the people's money to add to the swelling surplus. By this he has done another wrong to this province. The readjustment of the finances of the province would soon come up and those who will have a voice in the distribution of the finances of the provinces will say that Bengal has got enough money to spare and also a fat surplus. Therefore Bengal has got no need for more money. In the circumstances I think the Finance Member should have done well in bringing forward many proposals which have been lying in the Secretariat for the last few years.

Sir, I find that there is an annual grant of Rs. 1,20,000 to the Calcutta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. May I ask whether the Finance Member has gone into financial management of the society? What special reason is there that this society of all others should get Rs. 1,20,000? The old system was to hand back the proceeds from fees and fines to the society. Is it because—I speak subject to correction as I am only repeating a rumour—that one Mrs. Stanley is going to be appointed as Secretary to the society on a salary of Rs. 1,200 a month in place of the Honorary Secretary?

Sir, under the head "Veterinary College" I find that there is a new adjustment. The Bihar Government and other Governments will henceforth pay not only the actual amount of money required for their students but a lump sum of Rs. 600, which is much less than the average expenditure. I think the administration of the Veterinary College should be looked into by the Finance Department. We hear all sorts of reports about the Principal and the Vice-Principal who do not do any teaching work nor do they attend to hospital work but only go round practical classes and dispose of files. Between the Principal and the Vice-Principal a sum of Rs. 2,775 is spent in pay

and allowances. A sum of Rs. 59,000 is allotted for the Principal's quarters in the College. I am told that the Bihar Government, not satisfied with the administration of the Bengal Veterinary College, propose to start a college of their own in 1929. Is it a bait to the Bihar Government that their contribution has been fixed at a lower figures so that they may not start a college of their own and so that some money may still be available to Bengal to relieve its finances!

I would also draw the attention of the Finance Department to the method of taxing people by Executive orders. They should never have taxed secondary education or any education for the matter of that. They have increased the fee rates of the Presidency College, the Engineering College and all the Government secondary schools and also arts schools. The Government have got a surplus to dispose of—they have not been able to spend four lakhs from sanctioned grants in education alone—and yet they want to swell the revenue by these taxations by Executive orders. While adding to the revenue they are taxing poor students of these Government institutions most of whom come from the families of Government servants and middle-class gentlemen.

In this connection I should also like to draw the attention of the Finance Member to the teaching staff of the zilla secondary schools which have been depleted to the last extremity and even in the case of a temporary absence of a teacher the head master is at his wit's end to fill up the vacancies and carry on the work. You have increased the fee rate without giving them any corresponding benefit.

Lastly, I congratulate the Finance Member for the due sense of proportion with which he has distributed the grants in the Education Department. Rupees 59,000 has been allotted for the improvement of the compound of the Presidency College probably for the preparation of a lawn. Rupees 25,000 has been allotted for the proposed quarters of the Principal of the Rajshahi College probably as a corollary or prelude to the appointment of the European Principal there. Rupees 19,000 has been allotted for the construction of a Hindu hostel in another district where every body earns money on tea, *viz*, the tea district of Jalpaiguri; Rs. 27,000 for out houses and Superintendent's quarters at Krishnagar; Rs. 85,000 for the construction of roads in Porabazar and Rs. 33,000 for a bungalow at Duars. And yet a small sum of Rs. 18,000 for the construction of a Muhammadan hostel at Nadia, which has been hanging fire since the last decade and has got the approval of His Excellency, has not found any place in the budget of this year.

Sir, I find that the Secretary of State has made changes in the rates regarding house rents for their superior officers and this change has been made with retrospective effect from the 1st of April, 1924, and it will cost a sum of Rs. 1,04,000 this year. I congratulate the

Hon'ble the Finance Member—the more the merrier. With reforms we have to swallow many bitter pills till malaria is driven out. But may we know when shall we have the last dose. I take strong exception to the Secretary of State's approving expenditure with retrospective effect without giving an opportunity to this House to discuss the matter.

Sir, regarding the Agricultural Department we have had Fibre Expert, Economic Botanists, Deputy Directors and Superintendents and we are now going to have an Agricultural Engineer. May I ask if there is a proposal that one Mr. Gossip is going to be appointed as a Cattle Expert in this Province?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: This has been settled.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AZIZUL HAQUE: Sir, I congratulate Mr. Addams-Williams on his coming back to India. May I ask him with what new schemes he has come back.

(Here the member having reached his time limit had to resume his seat.)

(At 5-20 P.M. the Hon'ble the President left the chamber and the Deputy President took the Chair.)

Srijut JOGENDRA NATH MOITRA: Sir, in rising to make a few observations on the Budget for 1927-28 I am faced with some difficulty as to how I should characterise it. Some of my friends have characterised it as disappointing, some have called it reactionary, some have gone further and styled it as unworthy of a Government. But, Sir, I should like to characterise it as a brilliant achievement of the Finance Member who has represented the true character of the bureaucratic administration of this country and for this act I think the Hon'ble the Finance Member should be congratulated.

Sir, the Budget is a true index of the administration, beneficent or otherwise. A careful perusal of it will shew in what lines the administration is run, how far it is mindful to develop its resources and how far they are prepared to guide the destiny of the nation towards the fulfilment of their highest ambition, moral, cultural and political. Therefore, it must be said that the Finance Member has done a distinct service to the country, before the fag-end of his retirement, by laying bare once again, before us the true nature of the administration and for this he deserves our thanks.

Sir, from the perusal of the figures, it strikes one that it is a deficit budget. This is the inevitable result of a top-heavy administration. In the opening balance of 1925-26 we find Rs. 2,38,26,000, in 1926-27 we find Rs. 1,92,79,000. The closing balance for the year under review shows Rs. 1,45,05,000 only. This proves that we are eating up from the opening balance a big portion of it every year, such as Rs. 45,47,000 in 1926-27 and Rs. 47,74,000 in 1927-28, that is, for

more than 4 per cent of our expenditure we are depending upon our opening balances which should have been scrupulously set apart as our reserved fund only to be drawn upon in extreme cases! We are, therefore, progressively running towards bankruptcy, even if we are excused the payment to the Central Government by virtue of the most iniquitous Meston Award.

Now, Sir, I draw your attention to the very scanty provision made to the transferred departments as compared with the amount provided for the reserved departments. We have approximately got nearly 25 per cent. of the total expenditure for the "nation-building,", and the rest of it, *i.e.*, 75 per cent. for the (shall I say?) "bureaucracy building" departments.

It is a standing disgrace that we find even two of our members who came as people's representatives choose to play the role of Ministers without having any control over finance; and the amount placed in their hands is mainly exhausted for the upkeep of the highly salaried departments barely leaving any margin for any advance worth the name.

The most important item is Education and for this all-told we have got only Rs. 140 lakhs only. We all know that the percentage of illiteracy in Bengal is still 91 per cent. inspite of the parental care of our administrators for over 150 years! We are now given only a little more than 3 annas per head per year or in other words one pice per month per head of the population! The figure is sufficiently eloquent. A greater condemnation of the Government cannot be conceived of.

It is unfortunate that in spite of our Ministers we do not find any improvement in the figures for the year 1927-28 than those that were provided for the current year. On the contrary we find them of a retrogressive character.

On medical charges we find that the amount budgeted is Rs. 56,98,000 only. That is, Rs. 3,70,000 less than that of the current year! The requirement of medical help in Bengal, where the death-rate is so high, need not be explained at length. The need for the spread of the scientific knowledge in medicine is also very keenly felt. But there is little or no chance of expansion on these lines. We should have at least one medical school quartered in every district. I know in Pabna one medical school has been opened. But it is struggling against immense odds mainly for want of proper financial help. There is an old charitable dispensary and hospital in Pabna which is dragging its existence somehow without doing any actual benefit to the people. This is also mainly due to want of funds. Here an initial grant of Rs. 20,000 for construction, equipment and repairs and a recurring grant of Rs. 3,000 a year can make it an immensely useful institution. But for such essential works we do not find funds!

Sir, in the item of Public Health we find that the amount allotted is less by Rs. 4,54,000 than that provided for the current year! In this land where hundreds of thousands are carried away every year by malaria and kala-azar, where the mortality from cholera and other contagious diseases are on the increase, the Government considers that there is no greater need for improvement! And our Hon'ble Ministers are to be paid Rs. 64,000 each to bring about such a reduction. This is scandalous and intolerable! The question of pure drinking water in towns and villages is of primary importance. In fact, most of the diseases in the country originate from bad drinking water! But we find no adequate provision for them! Sir, in this connection I may refer to the scheme for the water-works in the town of Pabna and for this a provision of Rs. 70,000 has been made. But the amount though kept successively for two years, could not materialise for want of adequate contribution from the people of the locality. If the Ministers are sufficiently mindful for the promotion of public health they should not make unusual delay but should make a further contribution of Rs. 70,000 and see that the whole work is finished within the next year.

In Agriculture, we find only Rs. 1,20,000 provided! It goes without saying that three-fourths of this amount go towards the payment of salaries, etc., of the departments. In this province where agriculture forms the main source of our living, the Government allots barely one lakh of rupees for works of improvement which dwindles to a very insignificant figure when divided amongst 28 districts of Bengal! We all know how the work of district agricultural farms is conducted! They all complain of insufficiency of funds. The mass is in no way benefited or in any way more informed because of this department. If it fails to do any useful purpose, why, then this farce of a department? It should better go. Let it not be said that our bureaucratic masters are carrying on a great benevolent work by improving the hard lots of the poor agriculturists of this country.

Sir, about the Police budget I fully concur with the remarks appropriately made by my predecessors. We find that there is always a lavish provision whenever any greater need is found to strengthen the hands of our guardians of law and order. We know that they have proved to be a failure whenever any occasion arose for them. We have found how unscrupulous they are, when they choose to be so. And although they get open compliments from the Government for perhaps strengthening their autocratic powers, we all agree that they do not deserve to enjoy our confidence. The amount provided under this head is therefore superfluous. This should be reduced by half and the savings thus obtained should go for the spread of primary education in Bengal.

The expenses in the Civil Department are very high. Some of them are quite unnecessary and superfluous. As for instance, we find Rs. 60,000 allotted for the Collector's residence in Pabna. Half the amount may be enough for the purpose. The amount budgeted for record room is very high. The project can be dropped and the money could be expended for the water-supply of the town and for the improvement of the hospital.

Sir, I do not want to take your time any more. There are many things to be said on various items. But, before I resume my seat I beg to point out one thing. In the item of "Irrigation," only Rs. 7,000 has been provided for the Ganges left bank protection including Pabna revetment and Rajshahi revetment. The amount budgeted under this head in this year was Rs. 30,000 only. In view of the requirements which with the local knowledge I feel necessary, I insist upon the figure being raised to at least Rs. 60,000 only. The left bank of the river near Pabna badly requires extension and some repairs. The Government has spent a large sum of money to protect the municipal town of Pabna. There is still a great danger from wave cutting and erosion. I draw special attention of the department to this.

Srijut BIJAY KUMAR CHATTERJEE: It seems to me mere mockery to ask the members of the Legislative Council to discuss the Budget, for Government have taken good care that the most extravagant items of expenditure cannot be voted by the Council. It is well known that India, which was once one of the wealthiest countries in the world, is now, thanks to 150 years of British rule, one of the poorest countries in the world. Nature has endowed our country with a fertile soil and navigable rivers. The people are industrious and peace-loving. Before the British came here the industries were in a flourishing condition, in spite of war and revolutions in the country. But what do we find now? Go to the villages and look at the wretched hovels where the poor live. Look at their poverty-stricken and disease-worn figures. Half the people do not know what it is to have a full meal in the day. Spinning and weaving which at one time provided food for millions of people are almost gone. The average income of the people is no more than 3 pice per day, as against 10 rupees and 12 rupees in Europe and America. And yet this very country, the poorest of all countries, is saddled with a system of Government in which the superior officers are paid on the most lavish scale in the whole world. Go to any of the richest countries in the world—England, France, Germany, the United States of America—you will find in no other country such highly-paid officers. The reason is obvious. In other countries the public services are for the benefit of the people. In India the public services have been created for the benefit of the governing classes. Hence, every opportunity has been taken to create highly-paid appointments, and to

increase again and again the scale of salaries and allowances which are already high. When the income-tax was first levied the European officers raised a hue and cry. They came here to make their piles and not to contribute to the cost of the administration. Accordingly, they got an exchange compensation allowance, by which means they got much more than what they paid as tax. When the European War broke out, and the cost of living increased, they started an agitation, and their scale of pay was increased much more than the increase in the cost of living. After the War prices gradually came down, and one would expect that the pay of the superior services would also be reduced. But what happened was just the reverse. The taste of more pay was like the taste of blood to the tiger. The European officers started a vigorous agitation for further increase of pay. The Lee Commission came. The already overpaid services got further increase of pay. They got passages for themselves, their wives and children. In vain did the public of India protest in the columns of hundreds of newspapers and thousands of platforms. In vain did the members of the Legislative Assembly enter a most vigorous and united protest. A regular loot commenced. And the helpless Indian tax-payer saw before his very eyes crores of rupees taken away against his will.

Every scheme for the uplift of the people requires money. The people are poor. They cannot irrigate their land; they cannot buy ploughs and oxen and manure. You require money to give loans to the people. There is no supply of pure water in the villages. You require money to excavate wells and tanks. The people die in hundreds of thousands of preventable diseases like malaria and cholera. You require money to adopt both preventive and curative methods. You want to revitalize the dying industries—there again you want money. But where is this money to come from? The most obvious reply is—reduce the cost of administration; spend less money on Military and Police; let the pay of the various superior services be lowered, and the number be reduced. There is no doubt that if the matter were left to the representatives of the people they would adopt this course. The Government knows it. So in order to prevent the Council from taking this most just and natural course the pay of the superior officers has been declared "Non-voted". Not only their pay but also the allowances of all sorts are "Non-voted". You must not touch anything in connection with the superior services—not even their travelling allowances and other so-called compensatory allowances which are supposed to be not a source of profit, but is really a source of profit. The next measure of economy is to reduce the Police expenditure. For this it is necessary to have some confidence in the people. But the Government have no confidence in the people. Why, because it knows that it does not govern in accordance with the wishes of the people. It knows that it does not respond to the legitimate wishes of the people. So, instead

of reducing the expenditure on Police, it goes on increasing the Police expenditure. Out of a total revenue of 10 crores of rupees, the Government spends more than 2 crores on Police. The figure shown against "26.—Police" is 1 crore, 92 lakhs and 91 thousand. But this is not the entire expenditure under "Police". To it must be added the pensions paid to Police officers in India and England which is shown under "45.—Superannuation allowances and pensions", against which the expenditure is shown as Rs. 56 lakhs. To it must be further added the expenditure on Police buildings which is shown under "41.—Civil Works". The expenditure on original works for Police is Rs. 8 lakhs. To it must be further added the expenditure for the repairs and maintenance of Police buildings. So, Sir, if you take all these items together, the total expenditure is considerably in excess of Rs. 2 crores. As against this what is the expenditure on "Public Health"? It is the magnificent sum of Rs. 33 lakhs, out of which about Rs. 3 lakhs is for the pay of the highly-paid officers. No wonder people die like flies from preventable diseases. Malaria and plague have been banished from all civilised countries. But they have found comfortable resting places in India. In order to prevent malaria, it is necessary to improve the drainage of the place to remove water-logging. In all other countries they have practically banished malaria. But in Bengal hardly anything has been done. Why? Because Government has no money. But how can it have money, if it goes on spending on the superior services and Police at this rate? If to-morrow Government gets more money, it will further increase the expenditure on Police and will appoint another Commission to enquire into the grievances of the superior services. It has been well said that where there is a will there is a way. If Government felt for the starving and diseased people of this country, it would have surely found money to improve their lot. But the Government do not feel for the poor people. It really feels for the European officers. That is why it has found money to further increase their pay and allowances, but does not find money to make the villages healthy. That is why when Mahatma Gandhi tries to introduce spinning and weaving and popularize *khadi* in order that the average daily income of the people may increase from 3 pice to 5 pice, the movement is looked upon with suspicion, and *khadi*-wearers are believed to be revolutionaries in disguise.

Sir, the provision under "41.—Civil Works" is nearly Rs. 1 crore and 20 lakhs. This is another item of extravagance. We have got far too many costly buildings, and it is time that the expenditure in buildings should be reduced. Think, Sir, of the wretched hovels in which the poor people pass their days and nights in contrast with the luxuriant office buildings in which the officers spend only a few hours in the day. Most of the expenditure on roads is to make them fit for the motor-car. For the common people it is not necessary to have

such high class roads. It is well-known that there is a good deal of waste in the Public Works Department. Sir, I would urge that less be spent on buildings and roads and more be spent for the excavation and maintenance of tanks and wells, for proper drainage. Sir, I represent the poorest district in Bengal. The district of Bankura is suffering from chronic famine. The people live on the margin between life and death. When there is sufficient rain they somehow manage to live, but on the slightest failure of monsoons they starve and die. You have heard of the number of famines which visited my unhappy district during recent years. You will be shocked to learn that in the last 10 years the population has diminished from 11 lakhs to 10 lakhs. Sir, if the census reports of other districts are consulted, a similar state of affairs will be found. It is time that Government should look ahead if it does not desire that the Indians should not be wiped away from the face of the earth under the administration of the most civilised race in the world.

Maulvi ASIMUDDIN AHAMAD: I hope I shall be allowed to speak in Bengali.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes, you are allowed to speak in Bengali.

Maulvi ASIMUDDIN AHAMAD then delivered a speech in Bengali, the English translation of which is as follows:—

"Sir, the budget estimates are submitted every year at this time for general discussion by the members. The discussions which take place concern the vital problems of the country, they are not empty things meant to fill up the pages of the Proceedings Book and supply materials for the newspaper columns. The subjects of these discussions are the wants and grievances of the people, their want of food and the diseases they suffer from.

It is well known that the people suffer from chronic starvation, and as the result of it diseases have established permanent abode in their homes. Is not unemployment amongst the poorer classes in the mufassal the root cause of all this? These men do not get sufficient food, not even so much of it as is absolutely necessary for existence. You may believe me when I say that 80 per cent. of these men live on one meal a day. We are sure that Government know how things stand with them, and yet they do not take any steps for the betterment of this condition. They ought to know that they cannot cope successfully with the problem unless they strike at the root of the evil, that is, fight the unemployment question in every class of society and open out to the people new means of securing their livelihood. Government must not think that they can put down all the movements which crop up every day with the help of the Police alone, without making any attempt to remove the causes which give birth to them.

I have looked over all the items of the Budget. Though Government have provided a little more liberally on some heads, they have committed mistakes on some other heads. For instance—

1. Excise Department, Rs. 24,43,000.
2. Stamps, Rs. 8,93,000.
3. Forest, Rs. 14,96,000.
4. Registration, Rs. 21,13,000.
5. General Administration, Rs. 1,19,21,000. Out of this sum Rs. 4,65,000 are reserved for the Governor's staff and household expenditure.
6. Administration of Justice, Rs. 1,09,24,000.
7. Police Department, Rs. 1,88,87,000.
8. Scientific Departments, Rs. 28,000.
9. Jails and Convict Settlements, Rs. 35,67,000.
10. For "Education" only, Rs. 1,25,97,000 have been provided. Out of this sum Rs. 7,44,000 are earmarked for European and Anglo-Indian education. Rupees 3,37,000 only have been given to Primary Schools in this vast province.
11. Medical Department, Rs. 50,98,000.
12. Public Health, Rs. 33,29,000.
13. Agriculture, Rs. 23,63,000.
14. Industries, Rs. 12,93,000.
15. Famine Relief and Insurance, Rs. 50,000.
16. Loans by Local Government (for Agricultural and Co-operative Societies), Rs. 10,81,000.

A glance at these items will show that not even half of what has been given to 'General Administration', 'Administration of Justice', 'Jails' and 'Police' has been given to 'Agriculture', 'Industries', 'Education' and 'Agricultural and Co-operative Societies'. You will admit that the question of loans at low interest to agriculturists is a vital one, and Government have sadly neglected the interest of the millions of agriculturists. I am not aware of any enmity existing between Government and the agriculturists, but I am sure that a little more regard for their interest would have rendered it unnecessary to spend a mint of money for 'Police', 'Jails' and on similar other heads. The high Government officials in charge of the affairs of Government keep their eyes shut to the real condition of the people and delude themselves that all is right with them. They have, perhaps, never seen that many people make the footpaths of the streets of Calcutta their home and sleep there under the sun and rain like beasts. Unless

Government introduce compulsory primary education in the country very soon and launch a campaign against unemployment, the curses of these suffering masses will soon bring their career to an end.

The Hon'ble Finance Member makes liberal provision for the Governor's Body-Guard and boat excursions and for European education in comparison with which his provision for primary education in the province is absolutely ridiculous. This step has been taken deliberately, in defiance of the expressed wishes of this House and in neglect of the vital needs of the country. A Government which can construct buildings for the comfort of its officials and expensive Police barracks cannot arrange for loans at low interest to the agriculturists to carry on their work. They can easily find 30 lakhs of rupees for this purpose, and I think that would bring relief to the agriculturists in Bengal to a considerable extent.

I live in the village and have a knowledge of the grievances of the rural people to which I have sought to draw the attention of Government. Before I resume my seat, I request the Hon'ble Ministers to turn their attention to the requirements of the rural people. For reasons given above I am unable to congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Member on the Budget he has presented in the House."

(At this stage the Council was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

[After the adjournment.]

Adjournment.

There being no quorum present, the Council was adjourned at 6-30 P.M. till 3 P.M. on Tuesday, the 1st March, 1927, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 1st March, 1927, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President (Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHAUDHURI, of Santosh) in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, the two Hon'ble Ministers and 85 nominated and elected members.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Projected chord line from Santragachi to Vishnupur.

81. Srijut TARAKNATH MUKERJEA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Public Works (Railways) be pleased to state what further progress has been made to give effect to the project of the Santragachi-Bistoopur chord line of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway?

(*b*) When the matter is expected to be taken in hand?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (RAILWAYS) (the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald): (*a*) The line has been surveyed and esimates prepared. There is at present no proposal to start the construction in the near future.

(*b*) It is not known when the construction of the line will be taken in hand.

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: Is it a fact that the Bengal-Nagpur Railway having found an outlet in the Central India Coal-field have given up the idea of constructing the Santragachi-Bistoopur chord line?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: The railways are not the concern of the provincial Government. We have given information as far as we could. For any further information I must ask for notice.

Bushy plant on the banks of the Bhagirathi.

82. Maharaj Kumar SRIS CHANDRA NANDY: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries aware that a kind of small bushy plant has appeared on the banks of the River Bhagirathi in the district of Murshidabad and is fast spreading inland, and that it has become almost as difficult a problem as the water-hyacinth to weed them out?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister contemplating to take expert advice to suggest ways and means to eradicate the plant permanently?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. Abu Ahmed Khan Chuznavi): (*a*) A report to this effect has been received by Government.

(*b*) The Commissioner of the Presidency Division is being asked to have an enquiry made into the matter and to suggest measures for dealing with the plant.

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the enquiry was ordered?

Mr. C. S. DUTT: The enquiry has just now been ordered, as the report was received only lately.

Aided high English schools in Murshidabad.

83. Maharaj Kumar SRIS CHANDRA NANDY: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of Government aided high English schools in the Murshidabad district;

(*ii*) the amount of aid received by each;

(*iii*) the strength of staff of each;

(*iv*) the qualifications of the staff in each; and

(*v*) the result in the Matriculation examination achieved by each in the last five years?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. Byomkes Chakravarti): A statement corrected up to June, 1926, is laid on the library table.

Khulna-Bagerhat Railway.

84. Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Public Works (Railways) be pleased to state whether the Government are aware that most of the lower class carriages on the Khulna-Bagerhat Railway line are not closed, making it dangerous for children and inconvenient during the cold and rainy seasons?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of drawing the attention of the authorities into the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: (*a*) Government are informed that the majority of the lower class carriages have open sides with tarred gunny curtains to give protection against the rain.

No report of any accident to children has been received by the Head Office of the Railway.

(*b*) The Railway authorities intend to replace these carriages gradually by vehicles with bodies of the closed type as funds permit.

Consumption of liquor and drugs.

85. Babu AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries (Excise) be pleased to state whether consumption in *ganja* and opium has increased rapidly?

(*b*) What are the causes leading to this increase?

(*c*) What actual steps have been taken to combat this growing evil?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government have taken any steps for steady and progressive diminution of consumption of liquor spirits and drugs?

(*e*) Has any attempt been made to control the supply of spirits to shops and control the percentage of alcohol in liquor supply?

(*f*) Have the Government arrived at and formulated any final decision as to the principle of local option accepted by this Council in August, 1921?

(*g*) Has the principle been given effect to in any municipal area?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (EXCISE) (the Hon'ble Mr. Byomkes Chakravarti): (*a*) No.

(*b*) and (*c*) The questions do not arise.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) and (*g*) The member is referred to Government Resolution No. 5568Ex., dated the 27th November, 1926, a copy of which is placed on the library table.

Government Business.

General discussion on the Budget of the Government of Bengal.

Mr. P. C. BASU: I do not want to begin my speech with the customary congratulation or otherwise as it seems usual amongst the members of this House. The speech of the Hon'ble Finance Member I must confess has not impressed me at all. He deplored as we all do the iniquitous and unfavourable Meston Settlement. It must be indeed gratifying to him that a portion of the provincial contribution, namely, Rs. 9 lakhs has been permanently remitted and the balance for the present has been remitted for the year. In this connection may I remind the Hon'ble Finance Member that when the amusement tax was passed by this House some time ago Sir John Kerr, the then Finance Member, gave an undertaking to this House that the surplus after providing for the provincial contribution to the Government of India would be devoted to the so-called nation-building departments. In 1924, when the hon'ble member representing the 24-Parganas Constituency, I mean Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, asked the Government to give effect to this undertaking, on the same day our revered leader, late Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das, presented before this House his constructive scheme for a loan of Rs. 5 crores for the purpose of sanitation, primary education, Muhammadan education, agriculture and industries. The interest and sinking fund for the repayment of the said loan would have cost about Rs. 45 lakhs a year. This amount was to be paid out of the surplus of the amusement tax. The present Finance Member promised to consider the scheme and as a matter of fact asked the late Deshbandhu to submit a scheme. A detailed scheme for permanent prevention or eradication of cholera from the province was submitted the very next day by the late Deshbandhu C. R. Das. The said partial scheme would have cost the provincial exchequer at least Rs. 10 lakhs a year for a period of 5 or 6 years. The result would have been complete eradication of epidemic cholera from the province within the said period of 5 years and thereby would have saved a lakh of lives who die from that fell disease every year. It is no doubt a very small part out of that Rs. 5 crores scheme. The hon'ble member representing the Mymensingh Constituency, Babu Naliniranjan Sarker, again brought the matter before the House in 1925. The Hon'ble Finance Member then suggested that there was really no surplus, because the provincial contribution had been temporarily suspended. That is probably another reason he put forward for not acceding to Deshbandhu's scheme. Now that the Government of India has made a recurring remission of Rs. 9 lakhs, the fact that the amusement tax still continue and the remission being of a permanent character, may I ask the Hon'ble Finance Member to give effect to that scheme? On-

the 9 lakhs I think the Government of Bengal can raise a loan of about one crore of rupees and can give effect at any rate to a part of the 5-crore scheme.

Then the Hon'ble Finance Member has also told us that he experienced certain difficulties regarding adjusting the emoluments under the Lee loot. May I refer him to the Bengali adage (You can bear on the back if you are allowed to eat)." We have also frank confessions from him about what was done in the past regarding allotments to the so-called nation-building departments—lump provisions were shown when there were no schemes to materialise. What does the condition of the finance of our province depict, when we go through the estimates? A peep into them clearly reveals the nature of the administration. The Reforms, the blessed reforms, gave us nothing but a machinery which swallows up practically the revenue of our province. The province of Bengal, including Bihar and Orissa, before the pre-reform days was ruled by a Lieutenant-Governor. Now what have we got? For the same area we have got two Governors, 6 Executive Councillors and 4 Ministers with a huge machinery for administration and a large number of officers incidental thereto. It seems to me appropriate to depict the reforms themselves as "Blessed are they that give but curse to them who take". Regard being had to the top-heavy nature of the administration the Government themselves appointed a committee—I mean the Retrenchment Committee—that sat and sat and gave a voluminous report. Where is it now? It think is must be lying somewhere under the cover of dust in the archives of the Secretariat. Remember, Sir, that it was not a Swarajist committee nor was it a demand of the Indian National Congress, it was a Government committee and what after all we gained out of it. Nothing tangible was done nor was intended to be done to the recommendations. Sir, my time is short. I could have dwelt on the same at length but I shall only refer to certain items.

Take the case of the General Administration. We all know what the Retrenchment Committee recommended regarding the grant for the Governor's Bodyguard. Is it not a fact that they said it was "avoidable"? A modest and humble suggestion to His Excellency to deprive himself of the exhibitions of the olden times. Has His Excellency cast a glance at the famished looks of the hungry, nude millions overburdened with taxation? It seems to me that it pained his heart to be bereft of all the gorgeousness, vanity and pomp of an Oriental ruler! I think this House also dwelt on the question in the past. What is the demand? A lakh an thirteen thousand! I think the same remark applies to the demand for the Band Establishment for which a demand has been tabled for Rs. 70,000. What has happened to the recommendation of the Committee about the proposal for the abolition of several posts, namely, Inspector-General of Police,

Director of Public Instruction, Labour Intelligence Officer and many more? What has happened to the abolition of the posts of Divisional Commissioners? What has happened to the proposal for the abolition of 2 Executive Councilorship? We know that the recommendations were not meant to be acted upon, so long as the Executive remains irresponsible to the legislature. Is not this House a toy debating society whose resolutions are thrown to the winds? It shall go on in this way so long as the system is not mended or ended.

I confess that the Hon'ble Finance Member is to be congratulated for effecting a big saving inasmuch as the schemes which are of vital importance, *viz.*, eradication of water-hyacinth and district public health organisation, were not given effect to! Has he given any reasons why it was not done? Possibly he feels shy about it.

I do not know whether the members of this House have noticed the creeping animal "Excise Bureau" which ceased to exist for some time and a demand has been tabled for Rs. 40,000. May I remind the House that the Retrenchment Committee recommended its total abolition?

Regarding the demand for Rs. 2 lakhs for the Council Chamber may I ask the Government to defer the scheme for building till this Council ceases to be a mere debating society.

A few words about the proposed Damodar scheme. I tabled a question the other day. I was informed by the Hon'ble Member Nawab Bahadur Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri that land acquisition and collection of materials are in progress, as also surveys with a view to selecting the cheapest alignment for the canal. May I ask the Hon'ble Member through you, Sir, that he must not sacrifice utility for cheapness in the matter? My humble suggestion to the scheme would be that the proposed alignment for the canal should be selected with a view to serve as an additional waterway for the passage of overflow water of the river Damodar during the floods in order to rescue the present barren unproductive lakhs of bighas of land in the Budrwan district, which were once highly productive, from the devastation caused by the floods.

I have one word to say about the proposed settlement operations in the Burdwan district. The scheme should be postponed in view of the stringent financial conditions. The enormous expenditure on such schemes with no such resultant gains ought not to be pursued. I am neither a zamindar nor a tenant but I must frankly confess that these proceedings cause unnecessary litigation and feuds between the landlord and tenant.

Regarding the demand for Rs. 1,40,000 to be placed in the hands of the heads of the Govegnment and of divisions and districts I have some misgiving. The plea is that the Decentralisation Commission

recommended it. But have you adopted all the recommendations of such committees except when the recommendation is meant for the benefit of the heaven-born services?

Lastly, I want to address a few words regarding the efficient Police of the province and the demand under this head. It is indeed laudable on the part of the administration to make handsome provisions for these pet babies. Indeed they require adequate housing tending to better hygienic conditions and efficiency of the forces. Indeed palaces are a necessity for the force when the taxpayers are ill clad, ill fed, dying, through the ravages of malaria and kala-azar and living in huts with no attempt to look to their sanitation. The police buildings come up to nearly 8 lakhs of rupees, whereas a magnificent sum of one lakh for fighting malaria and another lakh for driving kala-asar scourge out of the province.

(Here the member having reached the time limit had to resume his seat.)

3-15 P.M.

Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER: The Budget presented by the Hon'ble Finance Member is in no way different from the large number of its predecessors. It is the same old story of the mere carrying on of the routine administration with all its pomp and show, of the excuse of lack of funds, of tinkering with the problems of popular uplift, and of self-congratulation on the soundness of the finances as reflected in surpluses which however reflect but little credit on their achievement. A perusal of the Hon'ble Member's speech and a scrutiny of the figures will leave only a feeling of disgust at the Government's inability to discharge its most elementary duties to the people of the country. There is no provision based on a sound and comprehensive scheme for arresting the progressive deterioration of the health and vitality of the people as also of the productivity of the land on which a large number of our countrymen have to depend. The unemployment of the middle classes, which is a question of grave concern, has found no place in the Hon'ble Finance Member's attention. I do not suggest that they are all possible or easy of immediate solution. But is it too much to expect from the Member who is in the exalted position of the custodian of the provincial finance to do something more than bringing the figures of the past blue and white books up to date without paying any attention whatsoever to such urgent problems as are now staring us in the face? I would ask the Hon'ble Mr. Donald if as a British citizen he would tolerate it, if the British Parliament were presented with such a budget consecutively for years together and if the Finance Member there had stated that "expansion for general health and well-being of the people could not be possible until the financial settlement was placed on a more satisfactory basis"? He

I am sure, as a British citizen, would not only protest against it but would move heaven and earth to turn out the Government which framed such unsatisfactory budgets. I thank the Hon'ble Finance Member for his candid confession that it would not be possible for him to do anything for the uplift of the people from their present stage of poverty, disease and ignorance. But, Sir, from the point of view of the sufferers, can there be a more blatant admission of governmental incapacity? So the only fitting comment that could be made in criticising a budget of this kind is to tell the Government—"If you can do no more than admit failure, leave it at least to those who are willing to make a good try". Sir, we, the Swarajists, are charged with attempting to create a dead-lock in the Government. But has not a dead-lock been created in every department, whether it be sanitation, education or economic improvement, by the action if not the policy also of the Government itself?

I am not, of course, unaware of the difficulties caused by an unjust and inequitable financial settlement being imposed upon us by the Meston Award which Sir Basil Blackett has said he can hold out no hopes to do away with. I admit that it is a serious strain on our financial resources and an effective handicap to our progress in every direction. I realise, Sir, that there can be no hope of larger resources being placed at the disposal of the provincial Government for true development and expansion work while the Central Government is allowed to persist in its wasteful, extravagant, unproductive and irresponsible expenditure. It is only when a standard imperial expenditure strictly in conformity with the ability of the Indian tax-payer at large is fixed and made subject to the approval of the representatives of the people, that anything like adequate means can be available to the local Governments for expanding their development works in accordance with the needs of the provinces. But are we to be satisfied simply with throwing up our hands in idle despair and saying that all progress in the country must be at a stand-still? We have to face the problem as it is without shirking or evasion. It is seldom that a real will fails to find the way. The present situation cannot be said to shut out every possible door to popular amelioration. The difficulty lies not in the utter impossibility of the financial situation but in the soullessness of the present Government, its apparently callous indifference to the sufferings of the people. The representatives of the people on our side have no means of investing the Government with a soul, of forcing one on them so to say. Had they felt for the people as they feel for themselves they could surely have found a way out of the difficulties that confront—nay surround them. When they set their heart on any project of their own, want of money is not allowed to stand in the way. Take the question of the increased pay of the superior services. Did lack of funds prove an effective obstacle? Did

the Government take long to devise ways and means in the case o any of their pet schemes? Have we not been presented again an again thanks to their ingenuity and Brucelike persistence o Mr. Addams-Williams with the Grand Trunk Canal project, a costl cantilever bridge across the Hooghly, a stone-faced Council Hall an palatial residences for married sergeants? It is only when they choos deliberately to ignore a cause that the plea of "no money" is put forward. The uplift of the people is of no concern to them. They have no comprehensive scheme for that purpose. They follow a tinkering, eye-washing policy only to keep up appearances. Budget allotments are made for the nation-building departments only to lapse for want of proper schemes. The rules with which many of the grants are hedged in preclude their utilisation by those for whom they are meant. It is edifying to note that education, sanitation, agriculture, industries and medical grants thus allowed to lapse during the last few years amounted to about one crore of rupees and went to build up a huge balance. If the unexpended portion of these grants had been allowed to accumulate in separate funds then the particular departments could have derived some benefit from them, instead of the money going simply to swell the general surplus.

Then, Sir, coming to the speech of the Hon'ble the Finance Member I find he has treated us to what he would consider a very illuminating comparison of transferred expenditure in the present and the previous years, and we are asked to feel elated at the enormous increase of percentage under these heads. We have no doubt our own ideas of the educational and other needs of this province, and we know how far short of our needs the present position is in spite of the high percentage flashed by the Hon'ble Member. And we would compare the present figures with what we consider they should be, rather than set them in contrast to a time when our beneficent Government did little or nothing for the education of the public health of this province. There is no point in thus taking credit for the percentage of increase in these matters. It may easily be seen that if the figures are compared to a time when these departments were not in existence at all, then we can pride ourselves on the remarkable achievement of a mathematically infinite increase in expenditure.

I admit Sir, that the administration of law and order and justice justly takes precedence over others. These departments have naturally been built up carefully and steadily from the earliest times of British administration. They have already obtained a good footing; any improvement in them towards efficiency cannot be attained by merely spending more money. Law and order cannot be preserved merely by force. Nor can law and order be preserved by pampering them. An atmosphere in which law and order can be preserved at a very reasonable cost is created only when the people offer their willing co-operation

to the authorities. But the policy of coercing people to submission, of keeping people confined for unknown and unknowable offences is not the proper means to create that atmosphere. So till the present policy is abandoned for one of candid co-operation and trust any amount spent will be an amount wasted in the quicksands of suspicion and discontent.

Under these circumstances I feel the necessity of an immediate overhauling of the whole structure of the Government's present financial policy. A rigid economy and relentless retrenchment should have our first attention. Our expenditures are too lavish not to admit of an all-round retrenchment. Even at the rate of a saving of 5 per cent. all round we can set free say rupees fifty lakhs. In a budget of over Rs. 10 crores such saving of fifty lakhs is not at all an impossible achievement. I have not the least doubt that even the present Government can easily accomplish it if only they set their mind on it; and if they should contend otherwise I affirm that this House will always be in a position to show the way.

Next, Sir, in making allotments for expenditure a clear and equitable order of preference amongst the various items should have their foremost attention and consideration. Moneys are now spent for a Rolls-Royce administration in a country of bullock-carts—though I concede a certain amount of pomp and show have their place in affairs of state—but these can well be postponed to the more urgent needs of the people.

By such measures of retrenchment and readjustment alone, if sincerely pursued, we shall have amplified our resources for the initiation of measures of popular relief. The amount that will be available as a result of these measures may be utilised for expenditure on the crying needs of the people. I am told by a competent authority that an annual expenditure of over Rs. 20 lakhs would be sufficient to initiate a scheme of adequate public health organisation throughout the country. The remaining amount can be used for the service of loans for the institutions of large schemes of popular amelioration in the departments of agriculture, irrigation, industry and the like.

Finally, Sir, it is of utmost importance that no money should be spent except in accordance with comprehensive pre-conceived schemes which are really beneficial to the people—as otherwise the expenditure cannot bring in full money's worth and much of it needs must run to waste. It may be said, Sir, that the amount that will be available as a result of these measures cannot have gone long towards solving all our problems of popular relief; for instance, no scheme of an extensive mass primary education can be financed from this as it will require a recurring expenditure of Rs. 2½ crores or thereabout. I admit that in such cases we will have to resort to fresh taxation under proper

safeguards when the scheme is approved by the representatives of the people. But before launching of any scheme of increased taxation we owe it to the people to show them that we have tried all other means and have explored all avenues of retrenchment. I feel, Sir, that our capacity to bear the burden of more taxation has almost come to a breaking point. But if such taxation is attended by compensating measures calculated to increase the economic position of the tax-payer it may be justified and become successful.

It is a duty that every member owes to his constituency and the whole country to see that Government is forced to carry out these measures and the first step is thus taken towards a progressive amelioration of the condition of the people of this province. All the constitutional weapons now in our possession should be pressed into service. We must be determined not to vote a pice unless Government agree to effect as early as possible an all-round retrenchment of not less than Rs. 50 lakhs or thereabouts.

The Hon'ble Mr. Donald has given this House, and incidentally the whole country, the benefit of his ideas on the Ratio Question. This is neither the time nor the place to go into the details of that question. We all know how the contending parties have drawn themselves up for battle at Delhi, and Sir Basil has not yet ventured out into the open. But what I should seriously deprecate is the attempt, as I see it, to bring in an element of threat into the settlement of the question. Mr. Donald has said that a change to the ratio would necessitate a revision of the scales of salary to officers, on the ground that the lower ratio would bring about a marked increase in the price of imported articles and generally increase the cost of living in India. I ask if the recommendations of the Lee Commission were not made when the lower rate ruled more than the higher. If so I fail to see the justice of the claim which Mr. Donald is making on behalf of his compatriots in the country. Even if it were otherwise we know how since the last revision was made the officials in India have been awarded princely salaries, and any reduction in their real value would only tend to bring them to more equitable levels.

Before I conclude, Sir, I would say a word or two to two of our own members who have now become the honourable occupants of the benches opposite. It may be that with the help of the new friends to his right and to his left, and before and behind him, Mr. Ghuznavi will be able to solve the problem of music before mosques. But can he—does he care to—stop, from his seat, that other music, the music of hungry stomachs and diseased limbs and of ignorant minds, I do not say in the country, but at least in his own community? I do hope he will face that music calmly and with a philosophic strength.

3-30 P.M.

Mr. B. Chakravarti may not have by now assessed what the Reforms are really worth; but he must have known what a ministership is worth. He must have felt the real nature of the Reforms when he sat mute and unmoved and all his own followers in the House clamoured for the release of the chained patriots. It is worth a good many thousands for nurses, but not a pie more, say for primary education, not a pie for removal of water scarcity. I need not swell the list. At least the budget presented before the House does not show even a streak of the new light that is said to have dawned on the Responsivists who are out to extract sunshine out of the Reforms.

The Hon'ble the Finance Member is feeling evidently satisfied at the position in which he is able to leave the finances of this province. It seems to be particularly gratifying to him as the sands of his official career are fast running out. Doubtless when on retirement he blossoms out into the type of expert on Indian affairs with which we are so familiar to our cost, he will dwell on these same surpluses as the best evidence of the contentment and prosperity of the people of Bengal and thus do his share in hampering and delaying the grant of further reforms to this country. This may not be the occasion, Sir, to express these sentiments but whenever there is any official on the eve of retirement, we dread to think that soon there will be one more to swell the ranks of those philanthropists who have their own very peculiar way of proving true to the salt of this country.

3-30 P.M.

Raja Bahadur BHUPENDRA NARAYAN SINHA of Nashipur: Mr. President, Sir, I note that in the Budget before us, the Hon'ble the Finance Member is as parsimonious as to the money, as you Sir, are to the time allotted to us for its discussion. It is nigh to impossible—unless one generialises— to survey the figures involving crores, in the brief space of a few minutes. I shall, therefore, confine myself to one of two outstanding features.

The Hon'ble Mr. Donald having to meet demand upon demand on all sides, with little to spare in his Exchequer, reminds one of the old woman who lived in a shoe, who had so many children that she did not know what to do. To misquote Shakespeare deliberately, the budget is a thing "of shreds and patches"; something is put on here to education, there a little to forests and so on and so forth. What we lack is a definite policy and a definite meeting of that policy by allotments of fixed grants running over a series of years. Take the case of primary education in Bengal, and one exposes the patch-work policy of Government. There is a something allotted to secondary and University education, but primary education, beyond the bit here and the bit there is woefully neglected.

We have had, I understand, in the past Council, a full dress debate on the primary education policy of the Government. The Education Secretary adumbrated a Bill; the question of a cess was discussed, then came the hiatus and everyone turned his head away.

The co-operative system in Bengal is another matter that should crave the more earnest attention of the Government, and funds should flow more liberally from the Government coffers in that direction. The figures in the Budget show an increase in the work, but I am not satisfied with that alone. Co-operation is doing well in Bengal; but we should expect it to do much better. In Italy, in Germany it is working wonders; In Bengal it but shows some progress. On the two main pillars, education and co-operation, a good deal of the future welfare of Bengal must rest.

The excise policy of the Government and the revenues arising therefrom I must protest against. To me it appears that to make money of the poisoning of other people and the ruin of their homes and families, is a matter that calls for serious attention, and is indefensible on any, but mercenary grounds.

I note that the Hon'ble Member is still in a state of trepidation, about the contribution from Bengal to the Imperial finances. While we discuss these things here in Bengal, they discuss them there in Delhi. The Hon'ble the Finance Member of India, in his budget speech received only this day, has been graciously pleased to remit from Bengal, a non-recurring grant of Rs. 54 lakhs and a recurring grant of Rs. 9 lakhs, but this should not satisfy us altogether. The remission is, however, only for a year as already announced; but Bengal must not cease in its efforts, till this award, based on an erroneous calculation of the finances of the province, is wiped off altogether.

One healthy feature is noticeable in the Budget, the provision made for irrigation, in canals and in the widening of silted rivers. To me there appears more in this than what is connoted by the word "irrigation". We are constantly complaining of water-logged areas in the province, due to railway embankments or the natural configuration of the land. A water-logged area is always the haunt of the anophele; hence the want of a thorough system of drainage must not only lead to the loss of revenue, by crops being not sufficiently cultivated, but must also lead to the loss of human life by malaria and other such scourges—a loss that is beyond all computation in terms of rupees, annas and pies.

One word more, Sir, and I am done, keeping well within the bounds of time and place. The lowering of the ratio of the rupee, in terms of English money—a campaign organised by a few merchant capitalists—is another matter which deserves our undivided attention. People talk

glibly of the distress that would ensue on the down-trodden tenant, if the ratio was fixed at 18*d.* instead of 16*d.*; all this sounds as tush, when one realises what little will go to the benefit of the tenant, after the middleman has sucked dry all the profits that might accrue.

The Hon'ble the Finance Member has shown in able terms, how Bengal's finances would suffer, for it would be possible for the Imperial Exchequer to demand her provincial contribution from Bengal which is but temporarily remitted. There are other directions as well in which the people of Bengal would suffer, and I earnestly hope that the honourable members of this House would study this vexed question, in order to support whole-heartedly the Hon'ble the Finance Member in his worthy efforts in this direction.

With these fragmentary remarks, I offer the Hon'ble the Finance Member my congratulations, qualified though they be with the criticisms I have been constrained to make.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Mr. President, I went through the speech of the Hon'ble the Finance Member in the hope of finding an indication of some definite policy of Government both on the reserved side as well as on the nation-building department, but to my utter regret I could only find the usual monotonous under-estimate of the receipts and over-estimate of the expenditure with a certain balance at the end of the financial year which is unspent. However, I came across in the speech certain passages which deserve more than a passing notice. The Hon'ble the Finance Member has said: "So far it has been our experience that the departments have generally been unable to spend all that has been given them in the budget." Again he has said: "On the expenditure side there are large savings, once more largely from inability to spend the money granted in the supplementary estimates or to give effect to schemes for which provision was made." The Hon'ble Member accounts for this by saying: "To some extent this has been due to our allowing lump provisions for new schemes in the transferred departments before they were actually ready for execution, in the hope that they would materialise during the year. But frequently they have either failed to materialise during the year or have been brought into effect so late in the year that there were large savings." These admissions and the reason which the Hon'ble the Finance Member has thought fit to give—though that is not the real reason—point to us certain things, and that is this, the inability to spend must either be due to total lack of initiative on the part of the Members of the Government, and also, if I may say so, inefficiency; or it must be attributed to want of sympathy and enthusiasm for the crying needs of the country. In either view of the case the Members of the Government stand self-condemned for not being able to carry out schemes which would solve

the crying problems of the country, though they have got money at their disposal. When 14 lakhs of people are dying annually, when all the *khals* and *bhils* are choked with water-hyacinth which damages the crops, kills the fish and renders drinking water undrinkable, we find the Hon'ble the Finance Member without an expression of regret telling us that schemes for dealing with water-hyacinth and for the district public health organisation have not still come to fruition and there have been large savings in connection with these two schemes. I think I will be characterised as an obstructionist, if not a revolutionary, if I say that the Government has signally failed in the performance of one of the elementary duties of providing for these needs which do not allow waiting a day longer than it is necessary. I do not know when Government will begin to realise that it is its paramount duty to frame bold schemes to tackle these problems instead of tinkering with schemes here and there, upon which they are sitting tight in some instances from 3 to 10 years without taking any action. I ask what chances there are for the people unless you can mend or end the system in which only red-tapism counts, in which the only expenditure that can be readily provided and spent is what will benefit the already top-heavy administration or expenditure that may serve to temper the steel frame of the British administration. The Chancellor of the Exchequer of England and the Finance Members generally are congratulated on the dexterity they show in relieving the people's burden. I regret that none of the previous speakers have congratulated the Finance Member for his performance in this respect. I am afraid the members of this House have not carefully studied the budget to find out that Budget statement is not wanting in merit in this respect. If the Members will kindly look at page 19 of the Budget statement, Civil works, head 30, they will find that corresponding to the increase in pay and emoluments of the superior services there has been a reduction in the rent payable by the officers of the superior services, mind you, with retrospective effect, so that there is some remission of some people's burden though it may be the burden of the superior services, leaving the poorer people in the lurch as regards this matter.

3-45 P.M.

We find that in giving effect to this reduction of rent of the superior services there has been a decrease of Rs. 61,000 on the receipt side and a refund of Rs. 1,04,000 has been made to the members of the heaven-born services. I should certainly be called an obstructionist, I suppose, if I do not appreciate such relief in preference to the poorer classes, or if when I urge that the heavy cost of administration should first of all be retrenched before any such relief is given. Sir, the hollowness of the budget—I was almost going to say the deliberate

distortion of the budget statement—is nowhere more apparent than at page 10 of the Hon'ble the Finance Member's speech. Conveniently ignoring the incessant demands for retrenching the expenditure on administration and police, the Hon'ble the Finance Member has indicated the small percentage of increase in these departments and then the Hon'ble the Finance Member gives us a catalogue of the percentages of increase in the different nation-building departments. We should rather have been pleased if the Hon'ble the Finance Member had indicated what is the percentage of expenditure under these heads to the total revenue and how does it compare with the expenditure incurred under these heads in the different civilised countries. That would have been more enlightening than these figures of percentage.

Then let us proceed to examine in detail after leaving aside the percentages some of the provisions. May I turn to the Industries Department first? We find the provision of a magnificent sum of Rs. 12,000 for the development of industries in the province of Bengal! It must be the most creditable achievement and it must be a matter of the greatest congratulation that the province of Bengal can think of spending Rs. 12,000 for the development of industries of Bengal. I wonder when the Hon'ble the Finance Member had provided that magnificent sum if he did not think that some of it even will remain unspent at the end of the year. Then there are the total provisions for industries amounting to Rs. 5,42,000 besides that Rs. 12,000. It will appear that the remainder is taken up in grants-in-aid and scholarships and contributions towards the technical and industrial schools. I may, however give this House a statement of the exact position of the technical and industrial schools and then leave it to the House to consider how that magnificent percentage tells. In 1924 there were 94 technical schools as against 55,001 cultural institutions. The total number of pupils receiving education in the technical schools was 5,061 against 20,562,000 students receiving cultural education and not knowing after finishing their education where to go, what to do and how to earn their livelihood. The expenses that Government incur on the tenchnical schools amount to Rs. 2,39,753 as against an expenditure of Rs. 1,27,45,000 for ordinary general education, so that the high the percentage of increase in the Industries Department really means this. I do not know why the Government cannot see that if this is the policy, it is vain for them to expect that dissatisfaction will cease, it is vain for them to expect that it will be able, by increasing the police expenditure, to keep law and order and to keep people satisfied with the Government and its doing. If Government is seriously anxious to ensure peace and order and not to pursue the policy of repression in order to strike terror, the sooner the Government begins to try to solve the problem of unemployment by developing industries and

industrial education, by removing starvation by helping the agriculturists and the sooner they make liberal provision and really begin to take action to save a dying nation by sanitary measures against preventible diseases and by providing medical aid to the sick and to the poor the better for themselves. I can assure the Government that the dissatisfaction of the people and the revolutionary activities where they do exist are not nearly half as much due to the agitation of politicians as they are due to the extravagant expenses of Government in administration, especially the police administration, to the callousness of Government to the crying needs of the country and unless you tackle these problems the Government will be assiduously helping in digging its own grave sooner than its opponents can do it.

There is only one other significant fact that I wanted to draw attention to and it was this. I shall stand corrected if I am wrong in my statement. I find in scanning the statements in the budget and by a comparative study that a very significant.....

3-54 P.M.

(Here the member having reached the time limit had to resume his seat.)

[3-55 P.M.]

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: Sir, a complaint has been made that no congratulations were offered to the Hon'ble the Finance Member. I, Sir, beg to offer my humble congratulations to him on his speech with which he introduced the Budget, although unfortunately I could not follow it when it was delivered. But I had the advantage of reading the Hon'ble Member's speech at leisure and I find, Sir, the business talent of a Scotchman visible in that speech—in the beautiful window-dressing, to which the budget has been subjected. The grants, whether small or big, to Education and other allied subjects have been placed in brilliant and coloured show-cases, whereas greater sums—I may say lavish and generous expenditure on other branches—have been placed in back shelves. Sir, what I find most remarkable in the finances of this province is that since the introduction of the Reforms fresh taxation has been introduced and imposed on the people not for any new measure but to carry on the ordinary expenses of administration, and while we have seen with pleasure and gratification that in the Government of India the Finance Member has been able to uniformly reduce taxes year after year and these reductions have been in many cases of a substantial nature, we find it difficult in this province to make the two ends meet even for our ordinary expenses. I know, Sir, that our revenues are not very elastic, I know, Sir, that the Meston Award is being resented as unfair and unjust to this province but at the same time I think that if the Government put their heart into it they can direct their expenses in

such a channel as will raise the tax-paying capacity of the people. I am not one of those who hold that the incidence of taxation in this country is very high but I hold that the tax-paying capacity of the people is very low and that in the interest of the province as well as in the interest of Government it is desirable that the tax-paying capacity of the people should be increased. How is that to be done? That is to be done by improving our education and spreading it and by introducing industries and one of the ways of introducing the industries is technical instructions to which reference has just been made. One thing remarkable about the Bengal Government's attitude in distributing money and which has attracted my attention is—I am speaking of the present Government—to favour cities at the expense of villages. They have always been generous in their grants to urban areas where the convenience of civilisation is available to the people. I submit, Sir, that the people who reside in towns are richer and more affluent comparatively speaking than the people who live in villages. And what has been the result? The villages are gradually getting depopulated. Sir, we hear of absentee landlords, but what are the reasons for the absence of the landlords from their territorial possessions? The reason is that in the cities they find convenience of life more suitable for them than in villages. There they are subjected to malaria, they find difficulty in getting good drinking-water and the facilities for medical help. I submit, Sir, that the rural area should be the primary consideration of Government. I do not of course grudge the cities the help they get from Government, but I think the cities can help themselves, and the villages cannot. Who are the villagers? The people who live in the villages are the people who provide the wealth of the province and they supply you with your food and you want to neglect them. That is not fair.

[4 P.M.]

Now I have neither the inclination nor the time to refer to in detail the various items in the Budget and I do not like to travel over the grounds which have been travelled before. I would however refer to certain matters in which I and my electorates are concerned—I mean the question of Muhammadan education. I regret to find that in the budget scheme for the proposed play-ground for the Islamia College has not found a place, although it has received administrative sanction. Sir, for the intellectual recreation and culture of Muslim boys a proposal was ripe for providing an accommodation for the Muslim Institute which is now located in too dark rooms in a corner of the Madrassah school. I know also that there was a proposal for providing scholarships for two Muhammadan boys for education in Europe. But all these have not found a place in the Budget. Then, Sir, some 13 years back when I happened to be a Member of the Bengal Legislative Council, I asked from my seat in that House for

Government grants for hostels for Muhammadan boys in the mufassal and I was told by the then Director of Public Instruction that attempts were being made to provide for these hostels as funds permitted. But 13 years have gone by and we find very little progress has been made in this direction. No doubt in this year's Budget there is a provision for the hostel in Chittagong and the Muslim Hall at Dacca but one of these affects only the Dacca University and not the Department of Education. I agree in general with the remarks of my friends about the carrying out of the recommendations of the Mukherji Committee, although with one aspect of the report of that Committee I unfortunately do not agree. The recommendations were good but one of them—the deprovincialization of educational institutions is one with which I do not agree. I think education is the most important question with which Government have had to deal. And it is unfortunate that Government have accepted that recommendation—at least they have shown the inclination towards accepting it. But if they do so, they would be shirking their responsibility in this matter.

Sir, I would refer to another matter. It is about the abolition of the post of the Director of Public Instruction. I think the Director of Public Instruction should not bury himself among files in the Secretariat. If he is to be worth his salt he should go through the College and see the institutions for himself. For that work we want the Director of Public Instruction to remain. There are, however, other sources of retrenchment. Why should there be 6 Deputy Inspectors-General of Police why should there be half a dozen Cabinet Ministers? The work can be done by two Executive Councillors. But I insist the department of education should be fully equipped and should never run short either of officers or of men.

Sir, a good deal has been said about agriculture and that at the present moment the Royal Commission is sitting investigating our agricultural system. It consists of men with expert knowledge. But as a humble man I think there are two things which urgently require attention and they are drainage and irrigation. I think the Government of Bengal instead of trying doubtful experiments provide for irrigation and drainage, agricultural condition in Bengal will without any doubt improve to a very large extent. I am glad that after all some move has been made for the Damodar Canal scheme. That scheme—or rather a bigger scheme than this—was promised to us by Lord Ronaldshay and we were told that drainage and irrigation schemes for at least three districts of Burdwan Division would be completed in a very short time. After all these years, I find that Bakreswar and Damodar schemes have found a place in this year's budget and provisions have been made for them. I would, however, draw the attention of the Revenue Department to the fact that another scheme for the drainage and irrigation of the area which runs on both sides

of the Ajai river, has become as much a necessity. Sixty square miles of fertile land has been allowed to remain fallow for 30 years by Government. I am told that in 1793 the Government decided to give up the embankments and shook themselves off from the responsibility of maintaining them. But the fact remains that the 60 square miles of land are remaining fallow unfertile till to-day on account of the inundations of these rivers. Rivers are allowed to be silted up because of railway bridges and embankments. These rivers have been in existence for thousands of years and they never silted up before. What has become of the Saraswati river? It has silted up because of the railway embankments. I admit that railways are a necessity but when you allow the railway to construct bridges you must take sufficient measures to see that the flow of the river is not at all interfered with. Sir, I would not go any further into the details of this year's budget but before I sit down I will make one more remark. I have found in these two days—as a new man it has surprised me—that the attendance at these meetings is very thin. The reason to my mind is that people both inside and outside the House, so far as the proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council are concerned, have come to realise that criticisms of the financial statement have as much force on the counsels of Government as those electric fans up above and therefore they take very little interest in them. That is the reason of the thinness of the House but if we are to work here and if we are to be of any service we expect that any criticisms that we may make should receive adequate consideration at the hands of the Government and there should be no cause for complaint of the indifference with which our questions are answered and resolutions disposed of. My experience in the last Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly has been quite different. With these remarks I beg to resume my seat.

(At 4-10 P.M. the Council was adjourned for 10 minutes.)

(The Council re-assembled at 4-25 P.M.)

Babu SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Sir, after strenuous efforts for several days I have been able to get your permission to speak to-day. I mean to speak only and not to make a speech.

Sir, in these few days of my Council life, I have earned the experience that we are here only to decorate the seats. Resolutions, if we have the fortune of moving and carrying, have no chance of being given effect to if they do not meet with the approval of the bureaucracy. Budget is no doubt placed before us for discussion but we can do nothing except giving our opinion as to its framing. We may relentlessly criticise the Budget yet the Finance Member will remain safe in his seat—not caring for the criticisms because he knows we have no power except exhausting our anger in the air.

Sir, had we been given the opportunity of putting in our suggestions and had we been given the power of modifying the Budget according to our suggestions then of course there might have been some justification in spending time and enjoying over our Budget discussion. But I see there is no such opportunity nor any such power given to us. The other day we were invited to send in resolutions—three per head. We were very glad of it and duly sent in our resolutions. But to our misfortune none of the resolutions except two only could be moved. The time allotted for non-official business was so limited that it was mockery to invite us to put in resolutions and then take the plea of no time and deny us the right and opportunity of moving the same. Now, Sir, insult has been added to injury by inviting us to discuss the Budget which means nothing but fruitless expression of opinion. Practically speaking, the Finance Member has by presenting the Budget asked for our certificates. If we say the Budget has been well planned he will certainly be very much pleased but if we raise our voice and decry it he will turn a deaf ear to our outbursts. That being the position, I think I should give the Finance Member a good certificate and say that what he has done is the only thing that we can expect from a faithful representative of an alien Government.

Sir, I have no complaints against the Finance Member as the other hon'ble members have made for his treating the nation-building departments like a step-mother. But I have one question to put to him—why has he provided money for meeting the expenses of these few meetings of this Council? If instead of spending money over this mock show the amount would have been distributed amongst the Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council and the Hon'ble Ministers that might have been better spent. Those gentlemen might have promised to spend some portion of that money for charity and some poor men might have been benefited by it. In my opinion the money spent for our attending the Council meetings, specially Budget discussion, is being mis-spent.

Sir, I am really serious in this matter. If we have come here to do some work we should be given the scope for doing so. As I see now speech-making is the only business that has been provided for us to do. The delivery of speeches in the Chamber and reading those speeches in the newspapers may be good reports to some but that does not satisfy the millions whom we have the honour to represent. When we sought election we advanced good many promises of doing substantial work in the Council but our promises have in these few days been proved to have been falsely made. Not to speak of us, the position of all the co-operationists is the same. Sir, we are all sailing in the same boat so far as our fruitless speech-making is concerned.

Another point is that Government want us to co-operate, but in what way are we to co-operate? Is our co-operation sought in any way? I say "No".

[4-30 P.M.]

There is no scope for co-operation except by voting for Ministers' salaries. That is the only scope for co-operation. In other respects we are here to sit like show toys to open our lips for the mere fun of the thing. The other day a few friends of mine who were in the visitors' gallery asked me whether they came here to see a theatre. I said "Yes", we are here only to play the parts of false Ministers and false Councillors but no reality.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Mr. Biswas, are you discussing the Budget?

Babu SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Yes, Sir. What I am saying has some relevance to the Budget. My point is that if Government is really serious to seek our help let them provide sufficient scope and time for us to give our suggestions and move our resolutions—let it be even one per head—we will not mind, but let those suggestions and resolutions be allowed to be moved and if they are accepted they should be given effect to, and the budget be framed or revised accordingly. So long as such provision is not made it is sheer insult to us to ask us to discuss the Budget.

With these words I resume my seat.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, this is the seventh Budget that I have the privilege to discuss in this House. As this is going to be the last present of the Hon'ble Mr. Donald to this Council, I am half inclined not to subject it to anything like close criticism and disturb the self-complacent attitude with which the Finance Member apparently contemplates his own achievments but I feel compelled to join issue with the Finance Member on more than one observation embodied in his Budget speech.

The Hon'ble the Finance Member has started this time with a statement of his experience that the departments have generally been unable to spend all that they have been given in the Budget and he has accounted for it by saying that the new schemes in the transferred departments did not materialise during the year. It is no doubt a compliment to the efficiency of the administrators of the transferred departments but we see that overestimates were made year after year under many a reserved head also, specially in years in which the recommendations of the Lee Commission had to be given effect to. We believe even after "a better insight into the working of the departments" has been gained, overestimates will not be a thing of the past so far as, at any rate, the reserved departments are concerned. As an example of the

new " insight " that has been gained, the Finance Member has given us the result of the comparison of the actuals of total receipts and expenditure of 1925-26 with the revised estimates for that year. Had the actuals been compared with the sanctioned estimates for the year the magnitude of the difference would have given us an exact idea of the new " insight " gained. Let me give the figures below :—

	Sanctioned.	Revised.	Actuals.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Total Receipts	10,45,16,000	10,60,21,000	10,70,60,000
Total Expenditure ..	10,80,39,000	10,45,60,000	10,31,07,000

On the contrary this gives us the secret of the accumulation of the large balance—which the Hon'ble the Finance Member has been able to pile up by what turns out to be systematic inflation of the estimates.

Now, coming to the current year the Hon'ble Mr. Donald makes some very gloomy forecasts. His present estimate is, what with trade depression, the communal riots and the fall in the price of jute, that " Stamps " will yield Rs. 26 lakhs less than the sanctioned estimates, " Judicial Stamps " Rs. 15 lakhs less and " Non-Judicial " Rs. 12 lakhs less than the budget estimates for the current year. How is it then that the allied head of " Registration " is not influenced by these circumstances and the Finance Member on revision expects as much revenue as he anticipated last March? In any case I suppose that his revised estimate of Stamp receipts errs on the side of over cautiousness. On the whole, however, inspite of defective realisation of Rs. 20 lakhs on the revenue side, this year is expected to close with a larger balance as a saving of Rs. 37 lakhs is estimated on the expenditure side including saving of about Rs. 3 lakhs under head " Education ", about Rs. 3 lakhs under head " Medical ", Rs. 2½ lakhs under head " Public Health ", about a lakh under head " Agriculture " and half a lakh under head " Industries "—fit subjects for retrenchment indeed!

Regarding the coming year the Finance Member's optimism estimates the receipts under " Stamps " at about Rs. 10 lakhs less than the actual of 1925-26. Will the riots, reduced jute price, slump in trade continue well up to the end of the next financial year or is it a fact that the very limits of taxation have been reached so far as " Stamps " is concerned? Has the surreptitious revision of Registration fees also made the receipts stationary? Does then " Excise " and exploitation of vice remain the only expanding source of revenue?

The Hon'ble the Finance Member has prefaced his proposals for expenditure in 1927-28 with a reference to the difficulty of securing funds for new expenditure of a recurring character. To solve the very difficulty, Sir, the Government imposed three new taxes and recently tapped another revenue head by revising the Registration fee rates behind the back of the Council. Yet, Sir, all the proceeds of the new

taxes have been swallowed up by what is called the normal increase of expenditure of the departments and no new and substantial work of nation-building has been undertaken save and except a few sops offered here and there. The Hon'ble the Finance Member thinks that new schemes involving recurring expenditure may be undertaken by "more accurate estimates of expenditure" and curtailment wherever possible. May we ask, Sir, how far effect has been given to the ultimate recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee that "what remains after the provision of the essential services"—"to be carried out at a minimum cost"—"should be devoted to the development of the nation-building department"? The Hon'ble the Finance Member has been avoiding of late the publication of the comparative table showing the expenditure on the reserved and the transferred sides. That table used to be given before but is now withheld. The explanation that he has given for it is certainly not convincing. On the contrary the line of argument based on percentages of increase in expenditure under certain reserved and transferred heads that he has adopted may give us an idea of his sense of humour but cannot convince us that justice has been or is being done to the nation-building departments. The expenditure on such reserved heads as "General Administration", "Administration of Justice" and "Police" is estimated and incurred by crores, whereas the expenditure on nation-building departments, such as Medical, Public Health, Agriculture and Industries, with the solitary exception of Education, is estimated and incurred only by a few lakhs. To say, therefore, that expenditure on Medical has increased by 52 per cent. and that on Agriculture by 19 per cent. whereas the expenditure on General Administration has increased by 16 per cent. and that on Police by 11½ per cent. without disclosing what proportions of the total provincial expenditure are covered by these heads is at best bluff and a ridiculous attempt to carry conviction to a people dying for want of adequate measures of sanitation and steeped in the darkness of ignorance.

In his introductory speech the Hon'ble the Finance Member has announced the proposal of new expenditure on revenue account to the tune of Rs. 41 lakhs of which Rs. 13 lakhs is of recurring and Rs. 28 lakhs of a non-recurring character. But there also he has not been pleased to indicate how it is distributed or what will the share of the transferred departments in this new expenditure be. The Finance Member has also indicated that new expenditure of Rs. 45 lakhs will be incurred outside the revenue accounts. Some new irrigation projects will be taken in hand. Well and good. But may I enquire why such schemes as the Bulli Bil Scheme on which the Government is labouring for years have not been taken in hand and how long will the *impasse* regarding such widely advertised anti-malarial projects as the Nowi-Sunthi will continue?

Now passing on to the consideration of the detailed provisions under different heads what do we see? We notice that to ensure contentment

and improvement in the general health and efficiency of the police force it is proposed, Sir, to spend just Rs. 4 lakhs more than the revised estimate, whereas to ensure better public health of the whole of Bengal it is proposed to reduce the current budget estimate under the head by Rs. 4½ lakhs in the next year. If malaria continues unchecked in the province the best remedy the Government thinks is to reduce the grant for quinine by Rs. 30,000, *i.e.*, 20 per cent. and if kala-azar is thriving in the rural areas the provision for anti-kala-azar campaign should, in the opinion of the Government anxious to secure Ministers, be reduced by at least Rs. 10,000 and for anti-cholera work no funds peed be provided.

Quite on a par with the provisions for public health is the provision for the Medical Department. At about Rs. 4 lakhs (3·70 thousand) less has been allotted to the department than was provided for it in the budget estimate for the current year. Even the revised amount has been further revised by the reduced provision of a lakh. As the Hon'ble the Finance Member is sure that he and his government "have met all the present demands for grants to hospitals and for medical purposes" they are, on revised estimate, going to effect a saving of Rs. 1,70,000 under the sub-heads and are further going to relieve their much obliging colleague, the Hon'ble Minister, of all undue anxiety by providing Rs. 2 lakhs less grant (less than the budget estimates for 1926-27) for hospitals and dispensaries and also by reducing the budget grants for medical purposes for 1927-28 by almost exactly the same amount as the pay of an Hon'ble Minister. I do not forget that in some cases grants have been restored but not the grants at the disposal of the Ministers but that available to the divisional commissioners and district magistrates for distribution of patronage to loyal men and areas.

But we probably fail to note the statement of the Hon'ble the Finance Member that the Education Department "has again been very fortunate and once more a distinct advance has been made". What is the great good fortune which is supposed to have befallen this department in charge of the Education of 8 per cent. and the illiteracy of 92 per cent. of the people? Why on revision it is estimated that it will spend Rs. 1½ lakhs more than the sanctioned amount for the current year and put in Rs. 120½ lakhs of expenditure instead of Rs. 117½ lakhs, the actuals of 1925-26. Further, there can be no doubt that the department will make a distinct advance when in place of the budget grant of Rs. 122 lakhs for 1926-27 the budget estimate for 1927-28 under this head is proposed to be increased to about Rs. 126 lakhs, *i.e.*, by 3 per cent. The Hon'ble Ministers should certainly feel thankful that there is so much evidence in the budget of the sincere anxiety of the Executive Government to make the reforms a success. They ought also to remember that the "spending capacity theory" has just been mooted by their hon'ble colleague in charge of the Finance Department in anticipation of the responsive co-operation that is likely to be secured from them.

The Hon'ble the Finance Member has made pointed reference to th special grants for Muhammadan education—with what object he knows But may I enquire while dealing with this head why no provision ha been made for giving effect to the recommendations of the Sanskri College Committee?

4-45 P.M.

As regards the concluding remarks of the Hon'ble the Finance Member on the exchange ratio, I consider it a good fortune on hi part, Sir, that under the Council Rules the budget speech of the Finance Member has not got to come through the Legislative Department, for I am sure this portion of the speech would have been considered not a matter of provincial concern and hence rejected. I am, therefore, not disposed to follow him into the domain of currency and exchange as I think the question will be best dealt with by the representatives of Bengal in the Legislative Assembly. As a member of the subordinate government it may be the business of the Hon'ble the Finance Member here to canvass support for the views of Sir Basil Blackett, but I believe we are not called upon to commit ourselves to the subject, and I would, therefore, conclude my speech with this observation only that whatever may be the anxiety of the Government as an employer or a purchaser of stores, our anxieties, regard being had to the present position of India, are more for the wealth and resources of this much exploited nation and the growers of the raw materials of a predominantly agricultural country the dumb millions whom we have come here to represent in this Council—and if the Hon'ble the Finance Member is prepared to prove with reference to all available facts and figures that the 1*s.* 6*d.* ratio will be to the advantage of this country, we are ready to hear him on the subject, but certainly not on this but on a different occasion.

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: Sir, I have listened to the various criticisms made against the Budget—very ordinary criticisms and what we hear every year. I may say the same of the Budget: it is a very ordinary Budget, but perhaps in saying that I am paying it a compliment as it leaves little for criticism. I am glad that once a year, we have this opportunity when the budget comes along of airing our personal grievances against the Government. It gives a fine latitude, you can roam all over the affairs of Government, and I, like others, take the opportunity and come along with my hardy annual, the Midnapore leper colony. I have been looking through the budget—perhaps not too carefully—but I do not see anything there budgeted for the Midnapore leper colony. Now, Sir, I wonder if they are still searching for water as this has been their excuse in the past for not making progress; if water cannot be found and the site is unsuitable then for goodness' sake sell this site and buy another.

Then I have another hardy annual grievance, and that is the beggar problem. Well, Sir, only last year I spoke on this subject and my honourable friend, the Maharaja of Nadia, in that fine captivating way of his put me off my fighting form by informing me that the Government was advised that a committee had been formed by the Corporation and that that committee was considering the whole problem and everything would be rectified. Being Scotch and cautious, and not anxious to hurry matters I waited for twelve months, and only a fortnight ago I put a question to the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation asking "What progress has this committee that has been formed through the efforts of Government done or is going to do?" And, Sir, this is the reply I received: "That the committee appointed by the Corporation to investigate the question of vagrancy in the city were not inclined to accept the view that the Corporation had any direct responsibility in the matter". Now, Sir, here we are in a curious position: here is the Corporation declining liability and here is the Government declining liability. Well, I call the beggar problem a nuisance: it seems to be a nuisance to both those public bodies. Neither of these public bodies seem to have any desire to tackle this urgent problem. Does that mean that the citizens of this city are to go on putting up with this unsatisfactory state of affairs much longer? Well, Sir, I think it is time that the Government woke up to the fact that the members of my party—the Europeans—are now awake and they have made up their minds to take an active part in politics: they are no longer going to be recognised as mere individuals at the end of telephone. They are going to make propositions and they are going to see them carried out. I hope the Hon'ble Mr. Donald with his usual energy and ability will not make it necessary for me to bring this hardy annual up again next year.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: The expenditure of the Government of Bengal for the ensuing year, on the revenue account, and including the repayment of loans to the Government of India, is estimated to exceed the income by nearly Rs. 39½ lakhs. The Finance Member will perhaps object to my calling this a deficit budget. But I am afraid his intentions, excellent though they may be, will not alter facts.

This excess of expenditure over income is proposed to be met by drawing upon the balances. In past years, I have raised by voice against the policy of dissipating the balances. To-day I feel bound to do so once again. A large balance is always a source of temptation to the spending departments, and leads to wasteful expenditure. At the end of the year 1925-26, we had a balance of Rs. 2 crores and 38 lakhs. If a large portion of the sum were, as I then suggested, set apart to form the nucleus of a Sanitation Fund, immense good to the country might have resulted from the decision. But the Government refused

to accept the suggestion and chose to spend considerable sums out of the balances for ordinary purposes. Such expenditure was incurred in a haphazard fashion, and not in pursuance of a definite policy. And what is the result? At the close of the ensuing year, the balance is likely to dwindle down to Rs. 1 crore and 45 lakhs. Even now, I would urge the Government to desist from its wrong policy and to create a separate fund which may be utilised for the permanent benefit of the country.

The estimated expenditure of the ensuing year is Rs. 25¾ lakhs in excess of the revised estimates of the current year. And if we compare the revenue and expenditure of the coming year with those of 1923-24, we find that the revenue is larger by Rs. 60 lakhs, while the increase in expenditure is over Rs. 128 lakhs. In other words, expenditure is tending to grow twice as fast as revenue. Is this, I ask, a satisfactory state of things? It seems that, unless adequate steps are taken to check the progress of expenditure, the province will soon be landed in financial disaster.

I do not, of course, maintain that all expense is evil. But whenever an increase of expense occurs, we ought seriously to consider whether or not it is justifiable. Let us apply this test to the various items in the budget. I shall take the Police first. Under this head, the revised estimate of the current year shows an increase of Rs. 5¼ lakhs over the accounts of the last year. The Government will no doubt plead necessity in view of the circumstances of the province, which, during some months of the year, have been of an unusual character. But what justification is there for a further additions of Rs. 4 lakhs in the coming year's budget? Does the Government expect a recurrence of the communal trouble? Members of the Council will observe that the police expenditure has, in recent years shown a continuous tendency to expand. In the course of the last fifteen years it has more than doubled itself. But has this increase in expense been accompanied by an increase in efficiency? Let the Member in charge of the department answer. It is a fact worthy of serious consideration that police charges not only constitute the largest single item of expenditure in the budget, but absorb more than 20 per cent. of the net revenue of the province.

Civil Works next claim our attention. The expenditure under this head has increased from Rs. 93 lakhs in 1923-24 to more than a crore and 15 lakhs in the coming year's budget. The time has come when we must seriously consider whether a poor country like ours can really afford to build beautiful palaces for high officials and magnificent mansions for the police. I have carefully scanned the whole list of public works, and have come to the conclusion that the Civil Works budget may be cut down by one-half, without causing the slightest detriment to the interests of the people.

The charges of General Administration also show an increase. But it is pointed out by the Finance Member that the provision of the pay of Ministers accounts for it. It is to be hoped that the Ministers will be able to justify their appointment by their own deeds.

Let me turn now to those heads of expenditure which are essential for the well-being of the people. It is surprising that the grants for public health purposes are Rs. 33,000 less in the coming year than in the current year. In a province ravaged by malaria, kala-azar and cholera, one would have expected an increased expenditure under this head. But those who control our purse have willed otherwise, and we must rest content. The expenditure under the head "Medical" is niggardly.

Agriculture is the main occupation of the people. But what is the amount spent on its improvement? A sum of Rs. 12¾ lakhs has been provided for the department, of which the bulk will go to meet the expenses of a costly establishment. An expenditure of Rs. 12 lakhs and 73,000 is sanctioned for the Department of Industries; but for the industrial development of a people numbering 46 millions a sum of 12 thousand rupees is provided. Who will have the hardihood now to deny that our paternal Government nourishes our industries with the most loving care?

The picture seems a little less dark when we turn to Education. I am glad that an additional sum of five lakhs has been provided under this head. The needs of the Calcutta University have not been altogether overlooked; but the sum which has been provided is hardly sufficient to allow for any improvement. The University Science College is in urgent need of funds for equipment purposes, and I hope the Government will accede to its just demands.

5 P.M.

The amount of expenditure provided for primary education is only Rs. 27 lakhs. This branch of education is the most important from the national standpoint. But it has been persistently neglected by the Government in the past, and the present budget—though slightly better than the past budget—does not indicate any material change in its angle of vision. While on the subject of education, I cannot help observing that an unduly large proportion of educational expenditure is at present absorbed by direction and inspection.

Coming to the head "Jails and Convict Settlements,", I strongly deprecate the additional expenditure proposed to be incurred in connection with the appointment of a larger number of Superintendents and Deputy Jailors. I rejoice, however, at the establishment of a Borstal Institution at Bankura. May the day soon come when most of the jails in Bengal will be converted into industrial schools.

Outside the revenue account, Rs. 19 lakhs have been provided for expenditure on the Damodar and Bakreswar Irrigation Projects. This is one of the welcome features of the budget, and I have no doubt these schemes will prove beneficial to the people.

In the concluding portion of his speech, the Finance Member has indicated the progress that has been made on the transferred side of the budget since the introduction of the reforms. I do not dispute his figures; but I am sorry I cannot agree with him when he says that nobody "can complain that in these years the transferred department have been in any way neglected." Percentages of increase are not everything. We must consider the amounts actually spent. Looking at the question from this view-point, who will assert that the expenditure increased in the nation-saving and nation-building departments have not been extremely inadequate, and in some instances, ridiculously small. But the Hon'ble Mr. Donald knows the weakness of his position, and anticipating popular criticism, admits that "much remains to be done in the matter of education, of public health, of agriculture and so on."

I whole-heartedly endorse the Finance Member's plea for a revision of the Meston Settlement. I hope and trust that the Government of Bengal will urge upon the Central Government the absolute necessity of placing adequate resources at its disposal, without which no progress will be possible and no scheme of reforms, however excellent, will prove a success in this province.

Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Sir, from the budget it appears that 2½ crores of rupees out of roughly 11 crores are spent for Education, Sanitation and cognate subjects. While Rs. 8½ crores go to departments concerned with the safety of life and property of the people. The amount spent for the former purposes is undoubtedly small, though it has increased by about 75 lakhs since 1920-21.

With the awakening of the people at large and spread of education among them, the people have become more discriminating. But Government officials are unable to accommodate themselves to the present circumstances and are continuing with their old ideas and are therefore becoming increasingly unpopular.

I would mention one item of expenditure which can safely be discontinued. It is the expenditure for Settlement Operation.

Sir, the Government is wasting public money for this operation, losing every year 10 to 12 lakhs of rupees. Can the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department enlighten us, as to how this waste of public money has benefited the Government or even the agriculturist? Has a farthing more been added to the Government

revenue by the waste of 10 to 12 lakhs of rupees a year? Can the Hon'ble Member in charge say, that the poor agriculturist have got any additional right by his Settlement Operation? Does he not admit that the Bengal Tenancy Act, which he enforces to its very letter by this Settlement Operation, is thoroughly unpopular and requires thorough overhauling? While the country is crying hoarse for the amendment of the Act the Government is determined to carry into operation every letter of this unjust Act. Is it not unjust from every point of view to carry on this measure by causing loss to public exchequer to the extent of 10 to 12 lakhs of rupees a year?

Sir, can a more unpopular, unjust and wrong measure be continued from year to year by any Government in spite of the protest of the people—a measure which brings nothing to the public fund, but takes away 10 to 12 lakhs of rupees a year. If this is discontinued the money saved thereby may be spent for the prevention of kala-azar and malaria, and may be distributed to every district at the rate of Rs. 50,000 a year and thereby there may be established at least 25 charitable dispensaries in each district, over and above the number that already exist there. If the dispensaries are run more economically I can fairly say with this annual grant every district can increase the number of their existing dispensaries by 50 more which means 2 to 3 dispensaries more in every thana. While I am thankful to the Hon'ble Mr. Donald for the solicitude he has shown for the education of boys, I am sorry to observe that nothing has been done during the last few years for the spread of female education in Bengal.

Sir, in my last budget speech I requested the Government to establish at least one high English school for the Muhammadan girls at Calcutta, and when I read the speech of His Excellency delivered at Dacca sometime last year, I was under the impression that before His Excellency leaves Bengal, his worthy colleague at least in deference to the wishes expressed by him would do something substantial for the education of Moslem girls. But I regret to notice that nothing has been done in that direction either to meet our demand or to carry out the policy enunciated by His Excellency. I know we cannot expect anything now at the hands of our present Minister. I know Moslems are doomed in Bengal. I know Moslem demand will fall into deaf ears and for this I must not blame anybody except my own community. If nothing is done now to further Moslem education I shall not be surprised.

Sir, I must thank Hon'ble Maharaja Bahadur of Nadia for having sanctioned the construction of Jalpaiguri Medical School. I know at his great personal discomfort he went to Jalpaiguri and approved the site selected for the school. I hope before the next financial year closes the school building will be completed and in the beginning of the year 1928 tutorial classes will be opened.

Maulvi SYED MAQBUL HUSSAIN: Sir, this is the first time that I see the budget of the Government of Bengal. The one thing which strikes me is this: while I look into the budget I find the heads of voted and non-voted expenditure which goes to show that the Council has not even the full power of discussion over a portion of the non-voted budget. It further shows that the Government has no confidence in the representatives of the people, and accordingly the people have also got no confidence in the Government. We have seen the budget of local bodies. The entire budget is thrown open before the members, and all items are discussed threadbare. But here we have got no such opportunity. That is a grievance which, I think, is felt by all the members and I submit that this grievance is shared by their constituencies also. While I look into the budget I find that the greater portion of the revenue has been allotted for the purpose of payment of salaries of the officers of the superior services—the celestial service, *i.e.*, the Civil Service. Their pay, I think, is more than what is given to the highest officers of other civilized countries, either in Europe or in Japan. I do not think the Prime Minister of Japan gets a pay which is even equivalent to that of an ordinary executive officer of our country. Such a top heavy administration is sure to cause discontent among the people. If you go into the rural areas you will find that the whole country is being ravaged by famine, malaria, kala-azar, cholera, small-pox and other similar diseases and every year the cattle are being swept away by cattle diseases. The district board is not given sufficient fund to meet these emergencies, although the Government does nothing in respect of these things. The Government has asked the district boards to take steps in these matters but where is the fund from which the district boards can cope with these demands. So, I submit that even a hundredth part of the grievances of the people is not met by the district boards, and that is the reason why there is discontent throughout the whole country. Of course, there have been some repressive laws and some repressive measures, but I submit that half of these measures would not have been necessary if there had been contentment among the people and the people could take their food sufficiently. I understand that most of the people are half starved and that is the reason that they become easy prey to all these epidemic diseases. There is no water-supply in most of the rural areas; consequently the people have to drink muddy water and so become easy prey to cholera and other epidemic diseases. As the people do not get sufficient food they fall easy victims to small-pox and similar diseases. So, I submit that the policy which should underlie in the framing of the budget is the contentment and amelioration of the condition of the people of Bengal rather than the amelioration of the condition and pay of the higher services—the celestial service and other superior services. During the war time the prices of food articles grew very high and that was the plea taken for the

increment of the pay of all the services in the country. But did the Government look into the coffers of the public and see whether the income of masses had increased to some extent? One of my learned friends has said that the daily average earning of a person in Bengal is three pies while in other countries each individual earns 10 to 12 rupees. Under these circumstances is it at all likely that the people could remain content. I submit that it would not be at all difficult and it would not be felt very seriously by the officers if their pay be decreased by at least 10 per cent. and that amount be set apart for ameliorating the condition of the people in the rural areas. Only a few years ago we know that Munsifs and Deputy Magistrates and other officers used to draw salary at the rate of Rs. 250 per month after a service of about 10 years. Now, we find that they are getting about five to six hundred and even eight hundred. Of course, I admit that their pay had to be increased in order to keep pace with the increase in the pay of the officers of the celestial service, *viz.* the Indian Civil Service. So, my submission is that if the pay of all the services be reduced by 10 per cent., then there could be a sufficient sum set apart for ameliorating the condition of the people in the rural areas. An empire to last long must be broad based on the good will and contentment of the people. But how could you expect the people to be contented if they are half fed and become easy prey to all epidemic diseases. I know that in the case of Chittagong District Board we get calls for doctors to treat kala-azar, cholera and other diseases from the mufassal, but it is not possible for us to attend to these calls as our income is very small. I think, it is the duty of the Government to fill the coffers of the district boards and municipalities so that they can improve the condition of the people. In the district boards and municipalities a very small proportion of the total income is applied for the purpose of the pay of the establishment; but what do we find in the budget of the Government of Bengal. We find that nearly most of the revenue is applied for the purpose of the pay of the superior officers. Only a few years ago the stamp duties, court-fees and registration fees were increased by 50 per cent. At that time we were given to understand that it was only a temporary measure, but now we find that it has become permanent and the people are groaning under the burden of the taxes. All the poor men of the country are subjected to the payment of these heavy taxes although they do not get any return for them. That is the complaint. Now, in the Forest Department we do not know whether it is known to the authorities that there is a complaint made by the people that they cannot get into any forest and if they do so they are hauled up in criminal courts. In the rural areas of Chittagong the people who used to live by selling fuel.

5-15 P.M.

Now if these people are subjected to cruel treatment by the Forest officers and by the Police officers, it will be impossible for them to earn their livelihood. Such is the case with other matters.

In regard to the Medical Department there is of course some grant given to the district boards, but it is necessary that there should be a dispensary in every union board: but where is the fund for the district board to grant for the purpose? Unless the provincial revenue is given to the district boards for the augmentation of their resources they will not endeavour to meet the demand of providing these dispensaries for the union boards.

In the Public Health Department I find that most of the money allotted to that department is swallowed by the pay of the officers. What is the use of having so many officers? Of course, there may be one Director of Public Health. There is at present in every district board in Bengal a District Health Officer, and the work of the Health Officer can be supervised, and is generally supervised, by the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman and also by the Director of Public Health. There is no necessity of employing Deputy Directors and other gazetted officers in the Public Health Department.

About the primary education, we have been hearing for many years that there will be free primary education in Bengal, but when are we going to have it? It has not come at all. Of course it is not possible for the district boards with their present resources to meet the demand of providing free primary education. It is primarily the duty of Government to give education. Now, Sir, it is well known that about 8 or 9 per cent. of the population of this province are literate and the rest are illiterate. Is it not the duty of Government to give them education? If education is imparted to these people, they would be able to take care of themselves and thereby the resources of the country would be improved and the health of the country would also be largely improved. But the Government is only tantalising the people that they are going to give free primary education. Of course they contemplate that there should be an education cess: but I submit, Sir, that the people are already overburdened with taxes and it is not possible for them to bear any further tax, and that any sort of free primary education that would involve the levy of an education cess would not be appreciated by the people and at the same time it would be a failure.

As to the Irrigation, I find that all the irrigation works are monopolised by the Western Bengal and very few irrigation schemes have been taken up in the Eastern Bengal. But I am certain and think Mr. Sachse will bear me out that there are many important schemes in Chittagong which are lying defunct on account of want of money. Of course one scheme Ichakhali Moliash has been taken up and for this

thanks are due to Mr. Sasche, but there are other schemes, as, for instance, Silonia *beel* which covers an area of 13 square miles which always lies inundated with water, and no crop of any sort grows over this land. There is a police-station and munsif court at Fatikcheri near by, but Government officers do not like to go there on transfer. What is the reason? The reason is that this area is always lying under water throughout the whole year and when they go there they suffer from malaria. So that is a scheme which should he taken up at once. There is another Dhurung Khal scheme. Of course by local enterprise it was attempted to re-excavate that Dhurung Khal but unfortunately that has not been successful because the people could not bear the expenses and ultimately it went wrong. I submit, Sir, that all these thing should be examined by Government throughout the whole area of Bengal, district by district, and instructions should be issued to the District Officers that irrigation and drainage schemes should be taken up in all districts and only the Western Bengal should not be benefited by irrigation schemes. Now we find that Government is here giving money for having tar macadamised roads, but in our countries, as some of my learned friends said yesterday, people walk through knee-deep water and mud. I submit that care should he taken about the health of these people who are the strength of the Empire and who are the source of wealth of the country. Of course if funds are allotted through the district boards, I think, proper utilization of this money may be made.

(Here the member having reached the time-limit had to resume his seat.)

Mr. K. C. RAY CHAUDHURI: Sir, year after year I have spoken in this Council on the budget and criticised land monopoly enjoyed by the privileged few and advocated fresh taxation of the vast profits, *viz.*, eleven to twelve crores of rupees pocketed by the lords of the land and the hundreds of hangers-on between the lords and the serfs (I mean the raiyats) who work in poverty, hunger and dirt while their masters sing the song of "pay, pay, pay—or get out of our land". It is not the payment of legitimate rent that the raiyats grudge to pay; it is the exaction—illegal and traditional—that go by the name of *aboabs and nathots*, the rent Collector's Commission and criminal extortion that they strongly resent. Sir, it is only last Sunday that I was invited by the tenantry of Khiragram, a *pattuni* mahal owned by the Banerjees of Ganga Tikuri in Katwa subdivision of Burdwan. I went there accompanied by the Editor of a leading Calcutta paper and found by exhaustive enquiry that every word of their allegations against their landlord's oppression is true. I read an extract from the memorial submitted by the three hundred tenants of the village to His Excellency the Governor: (*a*) "That we have been made to contribute free of charge fifty maunds of rice to the Brahmin Sanmilani at

Burdwan and the contribution of Rs. 5,000 as a zamindar's donation to that Sanmilani."

Mr. A. C. BANERJEE: May I rise to a point of order? Is it in order, while discussing the budget presented by the Hon'ble Mr. Donald before the House, to discuss the budget of the tenantry and of the landlords of the land?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Let Mr. Ray Chaudhuri go on with his very amusing speech.

Mr. K. C. RAY CHAUDHURI: "(*b*). That the said zamindar has ordered us to find for him a sum of Rs. 3,000 for his contribution to the Indian National Congress Fund. Rs. 1,200 has already been paid. (*c*) That we have to pay 25 per cent. over our rentals on the occasion of Zamindar's nephew's marriage. (*d*) We have been made to pay Rs. 500 towards the marriage expenses of the daughter of the zamindar's tashildar. (*e*) That another order passed levys a *mathot* of five per cent. on the annual rental to enable the daughter of the present gomostha to be married. (*f*) That the zamindars passed orders for the collection of two annas of the value of every maund of paddy or rice and two annas of every rupee worth of agricultural produce sold by us in the village or outside". I will not deal with other items, *viz.*, unlawful confinement—employment of *lathials* to terrorise the *raiyat*, etc. Sir, we spent several hours and collected direct evidence from literate and illiterate raiyats of the village and found the allegations to be true. My point is that the Taxation Committee which sat last year was quite wrong in holding that fresh taxation of land-owners was not advisable. I maintain that the principle of taxation as practised in this province is wrong and is not consistent with the well-known maxim "Tax those who are able to pay", for who will deny the fact that the two crores of land revenue *plus* eleven or twelve crores of rupees as profit made by the lords of the lands fall very heavily on the impoverished and over-indebted tenantry in Bengal. There would have been some justifications if a large portion of these direct and indirect taxes derived from land, stamps, excise, forest and other sources mostly derived from the masses, spent for the benefit of the masses such as primary education, vocational and agricultural trainings and similar objects. Coming to the subject matter of the Finance Member's budget speech, I am very pleased to note that he has provided for large irrigation projects, known as Damodar and Barkeswar and also for liberal provision of 10½ lakhs of rupees for loans to Co-operative Societies and cultivators. I am also very glad to note that he had provided one lakh of rupees for the increased remuneration of poor copyists in the Registration offices. The Finance Member deserves

special congratulations for the much-needed reform of youthful offenders by providing a Borstal Institution. Coming to the Education grant I am very glad indeed to note that he has tried to rectify the defect which he himself admitted in his budget speech in 1926, *viz.*, "that the Government has been spending disproportionately on higher education and neglecting the masses". I am glad that he has provided an extra grant for improving the pay of primary pandits and the pay of secondary teachers of non-Government schools. His grant for introduction of a scheme of agricultural education in middle and High English schools is a great step forward. His liberal grant to the Calcutta University has caused universal satisfaction and I voice the feelings of a large section of advocates of College education that some definite grant should be made for the pay or honorarium of the whole-time Vice-Chancellor recently appointed to overhaul the cumbrous machinery of the Calcutta University. I am exceedingly glad to note his provisions for grants-in-aid to deserving industrial institutions and in this connection I express personal gratification for the grant he has made to leading Women's Industrial School in Bengal which bears that hallowed name of the late Saroj Nalini Dutt, the pioneer for women's welfare work in Bengal. Regarding the budget grant on "Stationery and Printing" I have not seen any special item for leave and other allowances of the piece-workers of the Government Press at Alipore. On my motion before this House last year a Committee was appointed with Mr. McAlpin as Chairman and that Committee unanimously recommended certain concessions to the over-worked piece-workers and I earnestly hope that the Finance Member will give full effect to the finding and remove the *bona fide* grievances of a large section of literate workers in the Government Press. I would like to say a word or two about the grant for the labour Intelligence Officer and his staff. I have no fault to find with the work entrusted to him, *viz.*, collection of labour informations and assistance to the Government of India by supplying reliable data for labour legislations and rules. But I would like to point out that the Labour Department should be converted into a Labour Bureau, as the Government of Bombay has done, with a view to prepare a general survey of the conditions under which an Industrial worker works, *e.g.*, in the jute mills, coal-mines, tea gardens and other industries which come under statutory control. Why should Bombay of less Industrial importance than Bengal lead India in the matter of Labour investigations. In fact, only recently several Labour Members of Parliament as well as International Delegates came to Calcutta and were surprised to find that they could not get any information about cost of living which they found in Bombay from the office of the Labour Bureau. India figures high as a country of great industrial importance and almost all the industrial countries of the world of even second and third rate importance, for example, Denmark, Italy and even small state in South Africa, have Labour Departments and

regularly prepare cost of living index as a guide for regulation of wages. As a matter of fact if we had such a guide for regulation of wages, the labour dispute in Bengal Nagpur Railway would have probably taken a different course from the present ruinous and widespread stoppage of work. The chief grievance of the strikers is that the wages are not enough to pay for the cost of living at Kharagpur and elsewhere. In fact that was the burden of their song when the leaders of the Labour Union waited on the Agent on the 24th November last—about two and a half months before the strike. The deputationists gave the figures about cost of living which the Agent refuted. If Bengal Government had a family budget giving detailed cost of living as they have done in Bombay, the public could have easily judged whether the Agent was right or the Union was right. The Union submitted a family budget showing the minimum cost of living at Kharagpur of a worker as Rs. 33 a month. Here is the statement they showed but it was challenged as there was no independent evidence. I would say just a few words in conclusion about the ratio of exchange mentioned in the Hon'ble Member's speech. I have personally nothing to do with the battle of the ratio raging furiously in Delhi and throughout the country. *As a Labour Member and one connected with the Trade Union Congress of India and in full consultation with such sincere leaders of the Indian Labour movement as Mr. Joshi I say advisedly that we must resist the preposterous demand of Bombay financiers and industrialists, to fix the ratio at 16d. per rupee.* Sir, they started the Indian Currency League in Bombay and packed it with such leading capitalists as Sir Victor Sassoon, Mr. Wadia as well as a few all-India politicians and what is the constitution of that league? "To educate the public opinion throughout India the advantages of fixing the rate of exchange at 16*d.* as recommended by Sir Purushottamdas Thakurdas in his minute of dissent". That is the *hukum* of the Bombay combine to fix the ratio at 16*d.* Sir, with your permission I read a letter from our patriotic friend Sj. Satyendra Mitter, confined in Mandalay jail, addressed to a particular friend of mine in support of my contention. He says: "My views about the coming currency legislation are not in agreement with the Bombay capitalists. The real interest of the raiyats will suffer at the lower rate of exchange and I agree with Mr. Chowdhury that interest of the *capitalist and the general public is at variance in this particular case.* But unfortunately nobody in Bengal has paid any attention to this aspect of this question while the big financiers of Bombay are misleading the *public opinion.*" This is the opinion of a true cool thinking patriot and politician away from the heat and controversy and free from the pressure and influence of interested financiers. From the point of view of the raiyats, I quote the editorial comments of the *Financial News of London.* "In India as the State is the greatest of landlords the rent question is substantially the land tax question. It may reasonably therefore be considered as

one of the strongest arguments in favour of the Commission's recommendation in support of the Indian Government Bill for stabilisation at 1*s.* 6*d.* which will eliminate fluctuation in rupee—one of the public benefits the bill foreshadows." I do not profess to be financial expert or a scholar of economics but *as a Labour student* I say emphatically that the cost of living has declined from October 1924 to the middle of 1926 as the result of the fall of the rupee to the present level, *viz.*, 1*s.* 5½*d.* In fact the Bombay cost of living Index number shows a fall of 24 points during the period in question. It is therefore abundantly clear that the higher ratio means to the workers and raiyats lower cost of living. I quote from the pamphlet No. 8 of the Indian Currency League—"It has been estimated that about 7 per cent. of our total imported goods worth 16 crores are consumed by our masses and the loss to the masses by the higher price due to the lower exchange of 1*s.* 4*d.* on these goods worth 16 crores would be about 2 crores of rupees." Sir, I challenge this hypothesis that only 7 per cent. of the total imported goods valued at about Rs. 200 crores is consumed by the masses which according to their pamplet No. 7, page 13, is more than 70 per cent. of the total population of India. I would say at the most conservative estimate 25 per cent. of the import, *viz.*, 50 crores of rupees worth of imports are consumed annually by the masses on imported clothes, implements, medicines, kerosine oil, etc., and the reduction of exchange ratio by 10 or 12 per cent. will mean loss of 5 to 6 crores of rupees to the poor raiyats and workers. I conclude by my declaration on behalf of peasants and workers in India in the language of the chained patriot in jail "that the real interest of the raiyats will suffer at the lower rate of exchange" and I say that the whole propaganda "down with 18*d.* and demand 16*d.* per rupee" is engineered by Bombay capitalists in their own interest to hit Lancashire and to handicap it with an indirect tax of about 12½ per cent. on poor men's clothes imported into India and to exploit the mill hands of Bombay Cotton Mills.

Sir ABD-UR RAHIM: Sir in dealing with this year's budget one cannot but admit that its features are practically the same as those we have been familiar with for sometime past. It could not very well be otherwise under the present condition. At the same time it is to be admitted by Government that they cannot go on from year to year presenting budgets of this nature which will solve none of the problems of Bengal—health, education, medical relief, agriculture, the encouragement of industries and so forth. The real question is what are we to do? If we go on in this way things are sure to reach an *impasse*. Therefore, I do think the time has come for the Bengal Government to try and find some way out of this wilderness. All the civilised world, all Governments are now engaged in reconstructing society.

Take England. What gigantic schemes are they not promulgating and giving effect to every year! Take their housing schemes, their old age pensions, unemployment advances, medical relief and other schemes of a similar nature. In all other civilised countries it is the same effort, to reconstruct society for the well-being and happiness of the people. But here we are still groping in the dark. Our budget year after year is of the Mid-Victorian age. There is no aspiration nor any urge forward. Surely it is time for us all to try and find out what can be done in order to make an advance to get out of this vicious circle so that we may be on the way to solve some of the problems—at any rate to begin a solution. In this connection I beg to suggest one thing. I know the Bengal Government is tied down by the Meston Award. That is the fate of all the provincial and subordinate Governments. The supreme Government is the Government of India. They have the control of the finances of India. But I say that it is the duty of the provincial Governments—more especially our Government—to meet the Government of India in a conference and take into their confidence the leaders of public opinion and then consider in such a conference as to what is to be done. All over India there are these problems. Illiteracy prevails all over the country. Similar health problems are to be found in all the provinces though in different shapes. The industrial development is at a rudimentary stage in every province. I say that if there is a conference of that sort and if all the best men in the Government and in public life put their heads together to find the solution I am absolutely sure that solution will be found. May I remind the Government, the occupiers of the Government benches, of what happened during the War? They were then able to raise very large sums of money several hundred crores for carrying on the war. I do not deny that that was necessary, but I do say that it is also equally necessary that something tangible must be done which will carry the whole country along the path of progress and improvement. Otherwise there is no way out of the difficulties. The next suggestion I should make is one which has been repeated in this House by several members, particularly by my friends to the left. Why not start a modest loan policy for Bengal alone? I do not see why this should not be tried. It is an experiment worth our while. You have a similar policy in other departments—the Improvement Trust, the Port Commissioners and the Corporation. I do not see why when we are attempting to solve our bigger all-India problems should we not make a beginning like that in Bengal ourselves? That is the general observation I wish to make on the budget. It is no good blaming the Finance Member. I know his limitations. We all know that. But it is the duty of the entire Government to take the initiative in this matter. As regards details of the budget I should like to know from the Finance Member as to the procedure he has adopted regarding the Ministers' salaries.

5-45 P.M.

I think the House would like to know whether they have joint responsibility. If they have joint responsibility then surely there is no meaning in placing the salaries of the two Ministers apart. This will only create difficulties. If there is no joint responsibility then undoubtedly the present presentation of their salaries separately is correct: otherwise not. Then the Hon'ble Mr. Donald has given us figures regarding certain improvements that have been made in the allotments to the transferred departments. I should like him to give the House further figures before the House is, at any rate I am, prepared to agree that there has been really such an increase in the grants to the transferred departments. For instance, I should like to know how much money did the Government of Bengal receive from the Government of India for any of the transferred departments, and if they received any grants whether those were included in making up this percentage of advance that is alleged. In this connection I should like to draw the attention of the House to one very important matter and that is the grants to the Dacca University. I wish to draw the attention of the Government, the Hon'ble the Finance Member, and the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education, to the speech delivered by Sir John Hartog on the 25th November, 1925, at a meeting of the Court of the Dacca University. There he points out that the Government of India in the years 1912-1920 put aside a sum, generally estimated at about Rs. 60 lakhs, for the University of Dacca, and then he goes on to say that the amount, which was paid in several instalments, was ear-marked for capital expenditure and he concludes like this: "We asked Government two years ago for a complete statement of the capital accounts, but we have not yet received it. I wish to emphasise the fact that the whole of this accumulated grant given by the Government of India was ear-marked by that Government for capital expenditure and not for recurring expenditure, and that it would be a grave injustice to the University, to the Muhammadan community, and to Eastern Bengal, if Government at any future time to relieve itself of financial difficulties in other directions were to divert the accumulated sum which was earmarked by the Government of India for capital expenditure to meet any portion of the recurring expenditure." I should like the Hon'ble the Finance Member to lay all the correspondence on the subject before the House so that the House may arrive at its own conclusion. If the statement of the Hon'ble the Vice-Chancellor of the Dacca University is well founded, then there would be, I take it, as he contends, a considerable amount lying with the Government of Bengal ear-marked for capital expenditure and not for recurring expenditure of the Dacca University. Sir, I am very pleased to find that provision has been made for the Moslem Hall: it was a great need of the Dacca University. But if it is sought to be debited to the amount granted by the

Government of India, then of course the sum at the credit of the Dacca University will be so much less. I should like also to draw the attention of the Education Department to the scheme for the reform of the Calcutta Madrassa. It is a long pending scheme; it was carefully considered by a committee of experts. I think it has been about 10 years before the Government and nothing has been done: at least I find no trace of any attempt to give effect to the scheme. I would like the Hon'ble Minister to consider this question carefully and to bring this scheme into operation without delay. Attention has already been drawn of the Government to the need for encouraging female education amongst my community. The House knows that my community suffers from special difficulties in this respect owing to the *purdah* system, and special provision has to be made for the education of the girls of this community. In other places special schools have been established for the purpose. I know there is a very fine school, which I mentioned to the House in my budget speech last year, in Madras, and surely in Bengal, where there is such a large Muhammadan population, and where I am glad to find from the latest report of the Education Department there is so much desire—keen desire—to push on education among females, there should be a school of this kind. The community is extremely—distressingly—poor, and it is impossible for it to find any funds for such a school. Therefore it is the duty of Government to establish schools for the education of girls. I also endorse the suggestion that has been made as regards the Moslem Institute. Every one who is familiar with the problem of education in Calcutta, especially of Muhammadan education, knows very well—and if the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education does not know himself, he ought to have the information from his honourable colleagues—that the students of the Madrassa and the Baker Hostel suffer greatly for want of a proper institute. I regret to find that this has not received proper attention.

(Here the member having reached the time-limit had to resume his seat.)

Maulvi SYED ABDUR RAUF: Sir, at this fag end of the day I have got the opportunity of participating in the discussion of this budget. First of all I congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Member not because that the budget he presented to this House is a very prosperous one, but because that he took a great deal of caution and diligence to prepare it. Sir, it is a relief not only to the Hon'ble the Finance Member, but to all members of this House to have the remission of the provincial contribution, but on the other hand we are much alarmed and dismayed to learn that the Hon'ble Member has been compelled to impose new taxation on the shoulders of the already overburdened people in order to ameliorate the financial position.

Sir, the average annual income per head of an Indian is Rs. 52 only, and out of this scanty income he is burdened with taxation to the extent of 13·5 per cent., and deducting this the balance remains less than Rs. 4 per month to meet all necessary expenditure of one's life. Now, if fresh taxation is imposed the income would come down to Rs. 3½ or so. With this small amount one would be in a position to make provision for one meal a day only. He would under no circumstances be in a position to make any provision for clothing not to speak of any other comforts of life. Credit be to the Hon'ble Finance Member who wants to ameliorate the financial position without ameliorating the condition of the people.

Now let us see what our self-imposed trustees of our destinies have provided for us in the present budget. The only item worth mentioning in it is a provision of Rs. 3,91,000 for Education Department and out of that Rs. 2,90,000 is to be spent for improving the remuneration of primary school teachers. In this connection I cannot but mention the educational advancement of Bengal during the blessed rule of our benign Government. The percentage of literary men in Bengal is 10 as against 95 in Japan, 94 in the United Kingdom and 90 in America.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Will you please resume your seat? I am afraid there is no quorum.

(On a count being taken after the bell was rung it was found that the requisite number of members were present and the Hon'ble the President asked the member to continue his speech.)

Maulvi SYED ABDUR RAUF: The average sum spent for each individual for education is annas 1½ in Bengal whereas it is Rs. 2½ in Japan, Rs. 6½ in Great Britain, Rs. 16⅝ in Canada, and Rs. 27 in the United States. Now, Sir, if over 150 years' rule of the most civilized Government on earth can literate only 10 per cent. of the population we don't know what indefinite period it will take to literate the people up to the mark of Great Britain or Japan. Perhaps the day of resurrection will overtake us before we are literate by 50 per cent. The Hon'ble Finance Member in his budget speech says: "It will be of interest to the Muhammadan members of this Council to know that we have provided for the appointment of a Professor of Islamic Studies and Culture in the Post-Graduate Department of the Calcutta University and that we have agreed to provide the funds necessary for the construction of a Muslim Hall at Dacca." Sir, we most sincerely thank the Hon'ble Member for it, but we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that we, the Mussalmans of Bengal, are about 99 per cent. illiterate and what provision the Hon'ble Member has made for us to reduce this appalling figure of illiteracy? On closer examination of the budget it appears that the direct grant to non-Government Madrassahs in

Bengal is Rs. 2,10,000 as against Rs. 2,10,000 of the revised estimate of the current year, *i.e.*, neither a farthing more nor a farthing less. Although, in fact, the non-Government Madrassahs have been increased in large numbers in the course of a few years they are maintaining their miserable existence crying in vain for Government grant-in-aid. Our interest therefore transforms into disinterestedness or disappointment when we look at this deplorable figure of the budget.

Next let us see what we have got in the Medical Department. The amount budgeted for 1927-28 is Rs. 56,98,000 as against Rs. 60,68,000 of the current year *i.e.*, Rs. 3,70,000 less than that of the current year. Is there no necessity for further development of this department. Have cholera and malaria been swept away from Bengal by the unseen hand of Providence? Is the Hon'ble Member aware of the fact that the people of this province are being carried off by various diseases at the rate of more than 14 lakhs a year?

6 P.M.

Is the Hon'ble Member aware of the fact that how difficult it is for the dispensation of medical relief for scarcity of charitable dispensaries in the rural area? If I am not incorrect a single charitable dispensary is intended to serve about eighty thousand souls. What can be more horrible and what can be more inhuman than to curtail a substantial amount from this most important nation-building department?

Let us turn our attention to another important transferred department, namely, the Public Health Department. The amount budgeted for 1927-28 is Rs. 33,29,000 as against Rs. 37,83,000 of the current year. Here also a nice cut of Rs. 4,54,000. The Hon'ble Finance Member explained it away by saying that the demands on us for public health purposes have been lesser in amount. Sir, it is very easy to explain away a thing but it is not always safe to explain away the life and death question of the millions of people. We find that provisions have been made for some water-supply schemes in the mufassal towns, so far so good: but what about the rural water-supply schemes? Perhaps the Hon'ble Member thought it mere waste of money to make provisions for pure drinking water for the poor people in the villages. The budget shows Rs. 2,81,000 against Rs. 3,07,000 of the revised estimate of the current year, *i.e.*, about Rs. 23,000 less than that of the current year. Sir, when it is a question of life and death to millions of people is it not imperative to consider the situation as one of emergency? Is not this policy of the Government suicidal considering the horrible death-rate of the villagers? What answer we shall give when millions of people in death's fateful grip will ask what provision you have made for us in the budget.

Sir, we shall have to console them by saying "Well, look at the Police Budget. There a substantial provision has been made to protect

your lives and properties". The amount budgeted for 1927-28 is Rs. 1,88,87,000 as against Rs. 1,84,83,000 of the revised estimate of the current year, *i.e.*, Rs. 4,04,000 more than that of the revised estimate of the current year. This swelling figure on the expenditure side of the Police budget is to protect lives and properties of the people indeed! But Sir, is there any life in the people or is there any property with the people to protect? Robbery and theft are diminished of themselves when there is nothing to rob and nothing to steal. Why then so much for this nation-crushing department? The answer is obvious: It is not to protect lives and properties but to strike terror into the hearts of the people and to maintain the invidious distinction between the ruler and the ruled.

Sir, I represent a poor and much neglected constituency notorious for malaria, a hotbed of cholera cut off from the civilised world for want of proper communication. I should be failing in my duty if I do not bring a few of its needs and grievances to the notice of this House. Sir, Jessore is a river district and its material prosperity largely depends upon its waterways but, unfortunate as we are, most of the rivers have been silted up to the detriment of health and prosperity of the teeming millions of the district. Malaria, cholera and kala-azar are ravaging the district in such a way that its population has been decreased by 2½ lakhs within the last 50 years. If this horrible state of things are allowed to continue I am sure Jessore will be quite depopulated before the dawn of the blessed era of the 21st century.

Sir, various schemes were prepared, various representations were made but to no purpose. A cut of some 2 miles and a half, joining Navaganga with Matha Bhanga at a cost not exceeding Rs. 40,000 or so may rejuvenate the old river and which will be a source of much prosperity to the people of Magura and Jhenidah subdivisions and some portion of the Nadia district. Another most important disadvantage for the people of Magura subdivision is its dearth of communication with the headquarters of the district. Common sense rebels to believe that in this civilised age it takes about 2¼ hours to reach the headquarters of the district, which is only 32 miles off. There is a project for the extension of the Eastern Bengal Railway line from Rajbari to Jessore *via* Magura. I hope the Government will recommend to the Railway Board to take up this line at an early date.

(At 6-7 p.m. the Council was adjourned for 15 minutes for prayer.)

(The Council re-assembled at 6-25 p.m.)

Adjournment.

There being no quorum present, the Council was adjourned till 3 p.m. on Friday, the 11th March, 1927, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

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